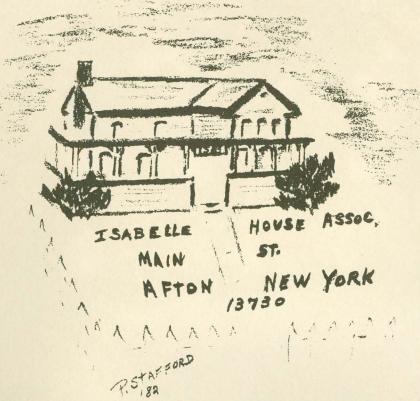
THE AFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY remembers . . . MAIN STREET



Calendar for 1987

THE POLLARD HOUSE—Afton's grandest house was "The Mansion," owned by the Pollard Family. It stood on what was later the Holmes farm, about where Route 41 comes under the D&H onto Route 7. The house burned in 1876. The group of three on the side porch are Mrs. Luman C. Pollard and her daughters who became Mrs. Loyal S. Nye and Mrs. J. Terry West.



THE ISABELLE HOUSE, formerly known as the old MacNayre place at 194 Main Street, served as headquarters of the Association 1982-1984.

CHARTER MEMBERS 1982

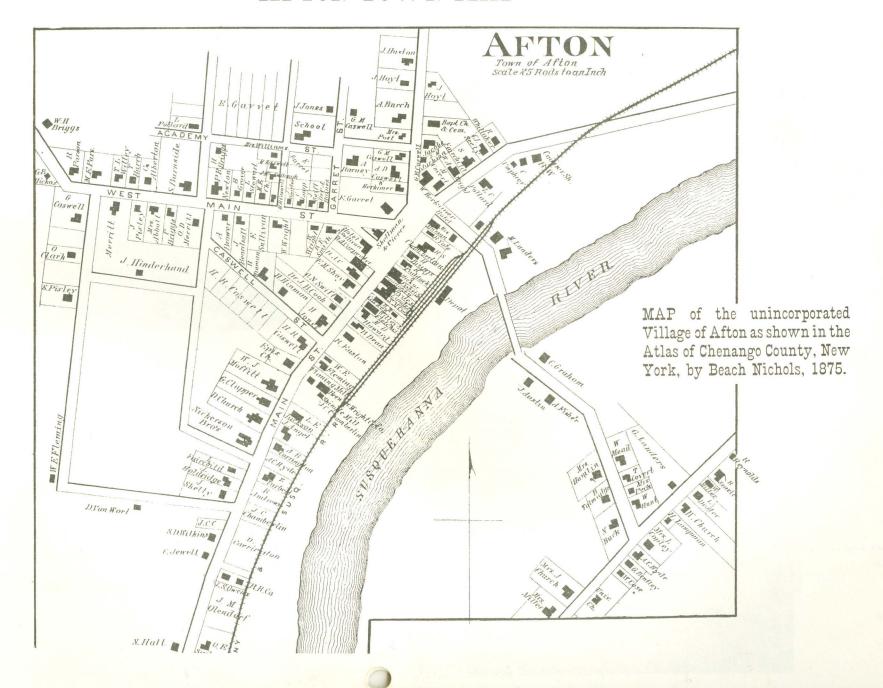
Lynnette Baciuska
Thelma Brown
Charles Decker
Helen Edson
Mildred Reynolds
Mildred Scott
Pat Stafford
Janet Stanley
Dorothy Thomson
Toni Weller



Photo by W. Rose

THE AFTON MUSEUM, now at 116 South Main Street, Afton, as it appeared during the 1986 bicentennial celebration of the settlement of the Township of Clinton. Purchased from the estate of Goldie VanValkenburg Pratt, this historical structure now serves as headquarters for the Afton Historical Society; meetings monthly on the third Thursday of each month, year round, annual picnic and meeting in June. Exhibits activities, and events with Open House in season, offered FREE of admission charge.

AFTON TOWN MAP





THE NORTH END OF MAIN STREET, the east side, the farthest house was the home of the Pollard family. The Musson House, a hotel, burned July 23, 1881. The Yale block was owned by Robert Yale who came from Unadilla. He operated a hardware store in the building which also burned on July 23, 1881, on the site of the Horton Hardware store.



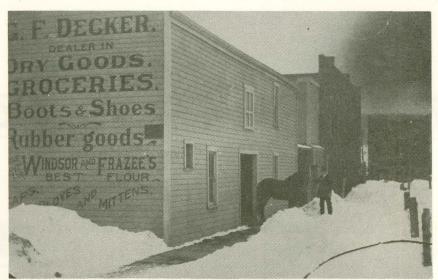
THE AFTON BAND on the steps of the Yale Block which also housed the grocery store of Charles Hill who came from Meredith in Delaware County. He was a merchant on several sites and was succeeded by his son, Marshall G. Hill, who later operated the Afton Inn.



THE EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET in 1874. The wooden buildings stood in the row now occupied by the Afton Pharmacy, Bates Real Estate, the Big M, and the Bank. This whole row burned in 1884, August 2. The present brick business blocks were built the same year to replace them.



THE MERLIN JACKSON STORE, which stood on the site of Swart's Hardware and the Grange Building. Mr. Jackson came from Butternuts in Otsego County. A picture of the same building, with some architectural changes, was owned by Jackson and Chaffee and is dated 1860. Charles Hill at one time did business here also. The building burned February 24, 1888. The Sullivan House (Afton Inn) is visible at the left.



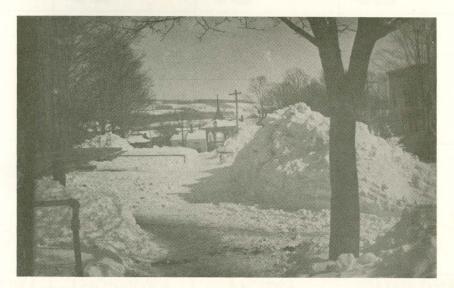
SCENE at the rear of Swart's Hardware after a storm in March, 1914. George Decker had a general store in the brick portion facing Main Street. George W. McKee delivered groceries outside the village.



THE EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET looking south. Morgan Brothers occupied the building used by part of the Big M. They later moved across the street to where Swart's Hardware later was. The Valley House was a hotel which became the Village Hall in 1929. The Home Bureau, Afton Hose Company, Afton Free Library and other organizations also had quarters in the building which was torn down in 1972.



HENRY CARR standing on a snowbank in front of his Drug Store, now the Villa Roma Restaurant. The brick business blocks, built after the fires of 1884 and 1888, are still in use, although with some modifications. Snow storm in 1926.



THE WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET in front of the Grange Hall with the bandstand in the background. The bandstand was planned in 1876 and continued in use until 1941.



WORK GANGS paved Route 7 about 1914. Steam and horse driven equipment assisted by human muscles did the heavy work required. The paving removed the hazzard of spring mud, a great deterent to automobile travel.



MAIN STREET remained unpaved well into the 20th century. Jets of water at far end of the street may be from hoses sprinkling to lay the dust. A horse trough is in front of the Church and Hill Bank where the Afton Bake Shop is now located. The sign of Moses Galpeer is on the side of what is now the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Galpeer started out as a travelling peddler and bought out the store of Daniel A. Carpenter in 1898. He was succeeded by Clarence Eldred.



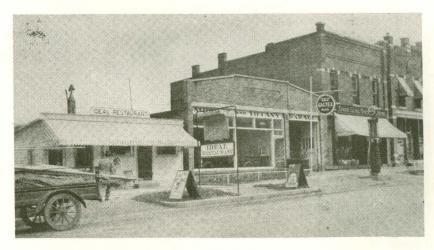
ITALIAN LABORERS worked for Frank Lewis to pave Main Street about 1914. Men, a woman, and a boy proudly pose in the picture. In the background is Horton Hardware, built by Clark L. Horton in 1905. He moved from Coventry in 1894 and started business in one of the small buildings recently occupied by Agway. Directly behind the steam roller is the building occupied by Wear Else. It was sold to B. Y. McHugh by A. J. Holmes in 1911. Both were undertakers and sold furniture.



PAVING CONTINUED SOUTH on Main Street to where the Afton Free Library, Village Office, and the Great American now stand. The Valley House became the Village Hall in 1929. A fire destroyed the nearest section of a row of three wooden business blocks. Olin Pierce had a shoe store and a confectionary shop there. P. W. Partridge had a meat market and bakery in the middle section. In later years the Schohanna Restaurant was located there.



TWO GIRLS ON PONIES in front of what is now the Wear Else Shop. The Bandstand and a house which stood on the site of the Day and Night Store are in the background.



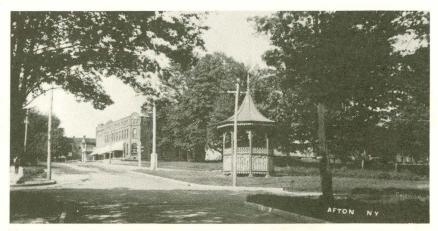
THE BUILDINGS IN THIS SCENE have all changed since 1929, the postmark on the card. The Ideal Restaurant sold Dairylea products, ice cream, and ice cold soft drinks for 5¢. The Dodge Insurance Agency is there now. Morgan and Tiffany's Garage also sold Galtex gas and oil. It later housed the Grand Union which burned just before Thanksgiving in 1968. The Grand Union Grocery Store in the picture was remodeled as the First National Bank of Afton in 1928. After the burning of the later Grand Union, the bank expanded onto the site and acquired another new facade.



THE EAST SIDE of the business section before the street was paved. The wagon in front of the first building advertizes furniture. Awnings kept out the afternoon sun, although some are askew. The Valley House, the tallest far building, does not yet have its two story porch.



THE SAME SCENE dated October 16, 1914, after the street was paved. The car was driven by Wells LeSuer. Morgan Brothers Hardware occupies the part of the middle block where the Big M is now. The large shade trees at the far end are gone. The porch on the Valley House has been added. Iron pipe railings guided traffic to the space in front of the row now occupied by the Grange and the Afton Bake Shop.



THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 7 AND 41 brought people into town from four directions, five if you count Spring Street. The bandstand, built shortly after the U.S. Centennial, was the focal point until 1941 when it was dismantled. Weekly summer concerts brought many people to town for an hour's entertainment after work. This card was mailed October 10, 1914. The street has been paved. The building where the Afton Bake Shop is located has the name Derby, an old Afton family, on the peak of the corner. It was sometimes called the Flatiron Building.



LOOKING NORTH from the corner of Spring Street. The Doolittle Brothers sold Galtex gas and oils. Another gas station on the opposite corner has a hearse at the pump. A gas war in the 1930's forced the price down to 6 gallons for a dollar. The underpass under the D & H Railroad was not built until 1932.



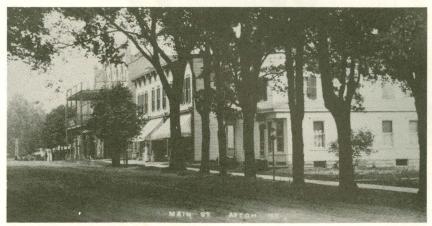
THE BANDSTAND again, about 1914. Horse-drawn farm equipment is evident alongside Horton Hardware. The Tin Shop entrance is on the side. Ed Weeks was the tinsmith there for many years. He died December 31, 1943. Memorial Day parades have passed the triangle for many years.



THE BANDSTAND AFTER 1929 when two monuments had been erected. One was for Revolutionary Soldiers buried in the town and the other was to commemorate the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition of 1779. The gingerbread railing has been replaced with an iron one and the spirea bushes have filled out. Land for the bandstand was given by L. C. Pollard. J. C. Chamberlin, S. M. Caswell, and Robert Yale were elected superintending and building committee in 1876.



LOOKING NORTH ON THE EAST SIDE of Main Street before paving. The Valley House, in pre-Volstead Act days, advertizes whiskey, ale, and lager on the iron railing of its porch. The second story has a large wooden porch swing. The St. James Hotel next door was later Page's Market. A solid sidewalk crosses the street in front of the milk wagon from Glenside Farm. The Afton Hose Company and Afton Free Library each occupied the right hand first floor at later dates.



THE HOUSE NOW OCCUPIED by the Ken Smiths was jacked up and the first floor added many years ago. Wesley Handy sold insurance and was a photographer here and his wife Emma had a millinery shop where the barber shop is now. The unpaved street and kerosene lamp indicate a date before 1914. The liquor store and Great American building replaced the three section wooden blocks.



THE EAST SIDE OF THE BUSINESS SECTION in the 1930's. Electric lights replaced kerosene lanterns in 1914. The Greyhound bus stopped for passengers in front of the Arrowhead Store which was operated by Allen G. Herkimer. The classic facade of the 1928 form of the First National Bank replaces the original red brick. Morgan and Tiffany are still next to the bank and the Grand Union has moved to where the Wear Else shop is now.



THE FIRST HOUSE SOUTH OF McDowell Walker on the east side of the street, across from the Post Office. The appearance has been changed by recent removal of the porch.



THE STORE OF BERT LORD was later occupied by the Post Office and is now a part of the Afton Pharmacy, known as the Hyde Drug Store at the time of this picture. Mr. Lord was active in politics, ending his career as U.S. Representative in Washington. Henry G. Carr operated a drug store and was Town Clerk. The signs "Drugs" and "Perfumery" remained on his windows until the store was taken over by Clarence Eldred's Men's Clothing Store. Villa Roma is now located here. Some of the newly set horse chestnut trees survived into the mid 20th century.



THE WRIGHT AND HINMAN SASH and BLIND FACTORY and the adjoining Firkin Factory burned May 6, 1902. What became Brigg's Lumber Company later occuped the site which now houses the complex of the Afton Country Mall. Stacks of wooden firkins, used to ship butter from this dairy county, are seen inside the door.



A FIRE IN 1914 badly damaged the three wooden blocks where the Great American and liquor store are now located. P.W. Partridge had a bakery and meat market in the middle one and Olin Pierce had a shoe and confectionary store in the right hand one which was torn down.



SOUTH MAIN STREET, the end of the pavement. Mr. and Mrs. Eli C. Mackley stand in front of his blacksmith shop. Their daughter Leola was able to drive to the church on the paved street for her wedding to John Camp. The blacksmith shop is now part of a dwelling on the flats of the Royston property. Tony Kane's house now stands on the site. The large white house with shutters was the home of Isaac Hall. Master Oil Company is now there.



EDGAR GARRET, son-in-law of Moses Caswell, built this house about 1865. Duttons, Farnsworths and Pooles have lived here before the recent purchase by Welmac Real Estate. The Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church are on lots from Garret property.



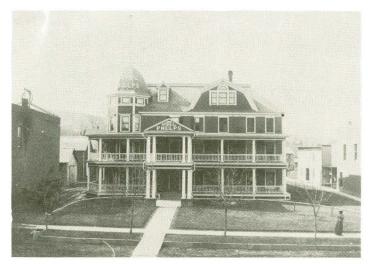
THIS PICTURE DATED 1903 has C. E. Carrington's Store where George F. Decker and Morgan's, then Swart's Hardware were located. Frank Keator was in the Grange Building. Only a sidewalk passes between the Afton Inn and the stores and is lit by a kerosene lantern which was among those tended by Robert Thomson, Afton's lamplighter for many years.



ISABELLE SEELY JENNINGS, collector of Afton memorabilia, lived in the right hand house, now the Leal home. Isabelle's father, Charles Seely, raised fancy poultry in the back yard. The second house was early known as the Kelsey Tavern. From her orchard, Mrs. Heth Kelsey blew a conch shell to summon worshipers to church. Leona Finch and the Wayne Blacks live in the double house today.



IN 1929, Morgan Bros. Hardware, Keator's Store, and C. E. Carrington's Store occupied the block where the Grange Hall and Afton Bake Shop are now. A cast iron horse trough remains from an earlier time as horses still drew vehicles into the village.

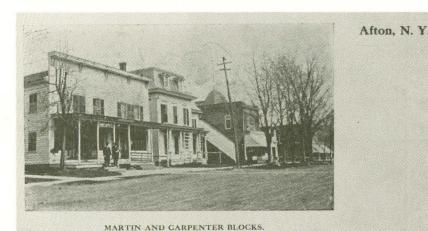


THE HOTEL PHELPS, probably just after being rebuilt after the fire of 1898. The tower, gambrel roof, and dormers were in the "colonial" style. The fire gong on the roof of the present Town Clerk's Office is visible at the left.

A HOTEL has stood on the site of the Afton Inn since 1823. After a fire in 1877, it was rebuilt as the Sullivan House, where concerts, theatricals, and concerts were held in its ballroom. After another fire in 1898, it was rebuilt in its present general form and has been known as the Hotel Phelps and the Central House. After a fire in the 1940's, the roofline was returned to its original form except for the tower.



THE SULLIVAN HOUSE, possibly on a 4th of July, decorated with flags and bunting and with the band ready for performance. Livery stables are seen to the left and a jewelry store to the right where cars now pass.



THE MARTIN BLOCK has housed many things including the Post Office, Nick's Shoe Parlor, and Dr. Graf's office. The Carpenter House and Business Block are north of it with the dome of the Afton Inn showing above the roof. The street is still unimproved, here.



THE MORRIS J. MUDGE HOME has always had the same two-tone green paint. Mr. Mudge came with his family from Harpursville about 1889, having bought out Joseph Decker who built the block later occupied by Jenks and Swart, then Stone's Department Store. Mudges later had the feed building by the river bridge then moved to the location of McDowell and Walker. Both buildings have burned. The feed business was continued by Alden Mudge, and then by Alden, Jr. and George.



THE CARPENTER HOUSE and business block were built by Daniel A. Carpenter who was a merchant from 1850 to 1898 when he was bought out by Moses Galpeer whose merchandise appears in the windows. Clarence Eldred was later a partner, then successor of Mr. Galpeer. The sign of the Afton Hose Company remained painted on the brick until a recent sandblasting removed it. The 1986 Memorial Clock now fills part of the space.



ST. ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH was originally built in 1867-68, but was struck by lightning and burned in 1890. The present building was consecrated in 1891. A hall has since been added on the rear.



THE LARGE HOUSE, known in 1911 as the Moffatt house, was torn down in the 1930's or early 1940's. The Alden Mudge house was built on the vacant lot next to it about 1919. The Dorothy Memorial Home and residence now occupy both sites. The next house was built by Fred Church about 1905 on the site of an earlier house. It was owned by Frank Decker for many years and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gaetano Marino.



JAMES H. NICKERSON and his brother built this imposing house "Sunny Crest" for their two families. James was a farmer and hop grower on the side hill back of the house. He was also in the lumber business with his neighbors, Fred and George Church. Churches, Vails, and Ashleys were succeeding owners. Mrs. Adda Bennett lived there when she mailed this card in 1915. The lot was purchased by the Victory Markets about 1968 and the house was torn down. It will be the site of the new Municipal Building.



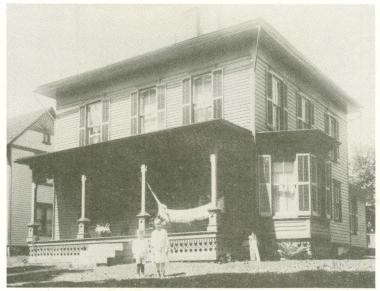
THE ALDEN MUDGE HOUSE has now occupied the vacant lot, indicating a date after 1919. The porch on the Moffatt house has been enlarged and the shutters removed. The previous picture is after 1914, as the the street is paved.



NEXT DOOR TO FRED CHURCH lived his brother George. The back wing was torn off in the 1930's. A large building at the rear housed a creamery which burned. At one time the house was known as "Floral Place" and took in tourists. Carrolls, Tiffany's, Dr. Cohn, Orrs and Lavenders preceded Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Standish as residents.



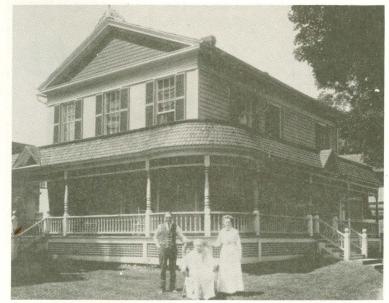
THE AFTON POST OFFICE now occupies the corner of Main and Mill Streets where the house with the porch stands. At that time it was the home of Henry Briggs.



THIS HOUSE WAS THE HOME OF JOSEPH DECKER, an Afton merchant who built the block later owned by Morris J. Mudge, Jenks and Swart, and Stone's Department Store. Randolph C. Guy, an insurance agent for many years, and his wife Nora Decker then lived here. Their children, Kenneth and Thelma stand in the yard. Thelma was the mother of Norman Davies, architect for the proposed municipal building. She and her husband Richard Davies also lived here.



THE FIRST HOUSE was the home of Harry horton for many years until he built the one where Don Bush now lives across from Horton Hardware. The second house was owned in 1902 by John Skelly, father of Grace Morgan. Mill Street is between the Skelly house and the Briggs house beyond.

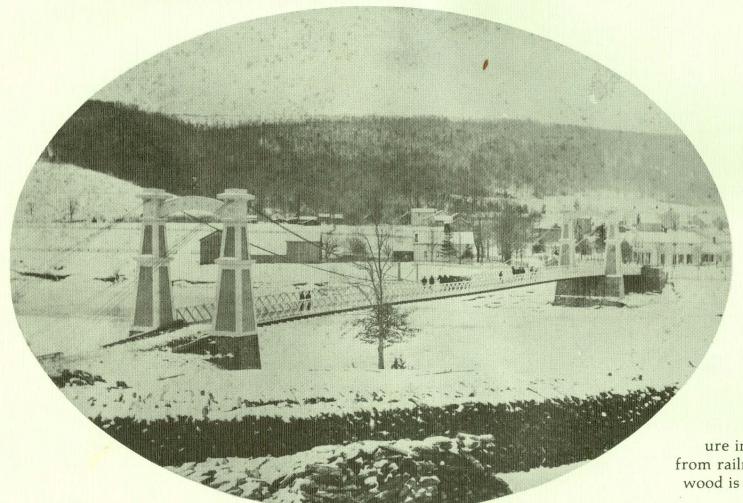


AN EARLIER PICTURE of the Henry Briggs house when Will and Nora Finch lived there. In the picture are Mr. and Mrs. Finch and her mother, Mrs. Mary Whitaker. Nora Finch was later Mrs. Hobart Benedict. Her sister, Lillian Whitaker, was the first wife of Joseph Decker. The house, of Greek Revival style, has been Victorianized. It was torn down to make way for the Post Office.

THE AFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

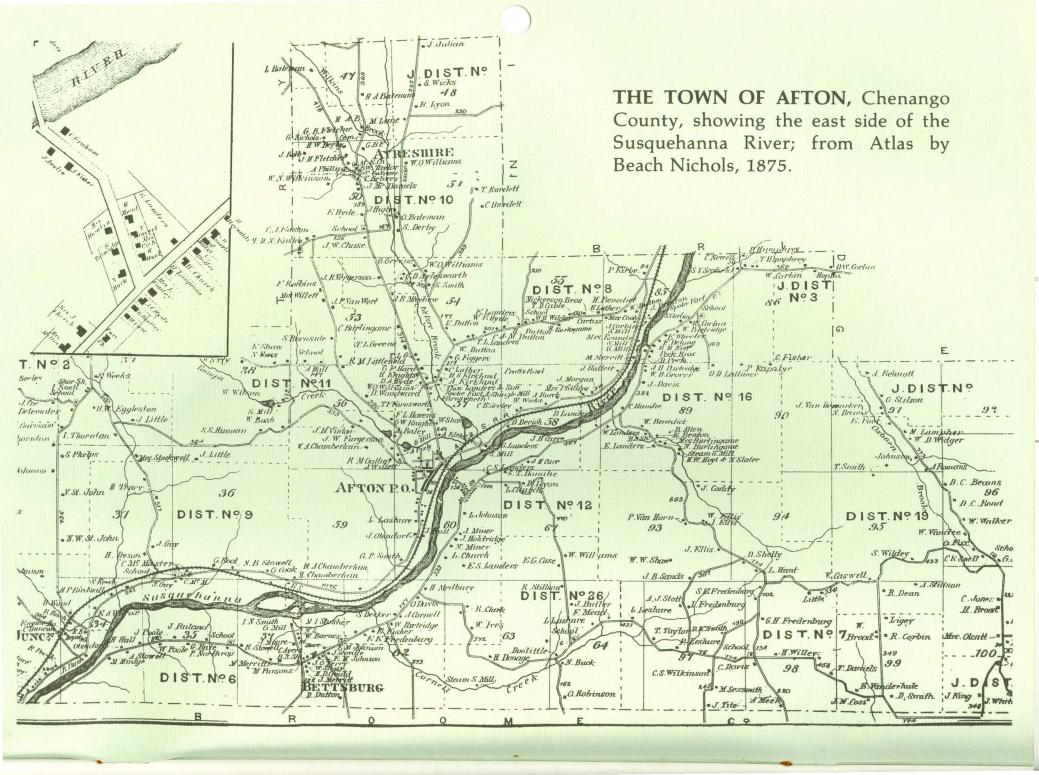
remembers . . .

The East Side: Middlebridge to Bettsburgh



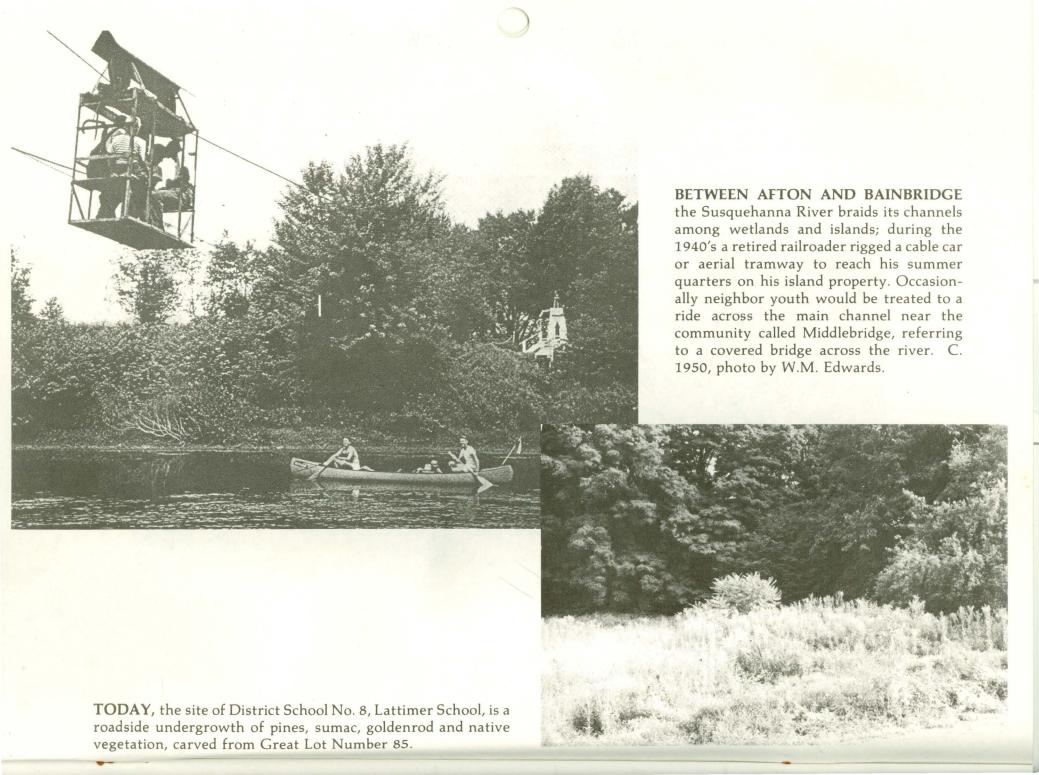
Calendar for 1988

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER
SUSPENSION BRIDGE built
in 1867, replaced by iron structure in 1904. Winter scene looking east
from railroad right-of-way on which cordwood is stored for the old steam engines.
Photo by Well G. Singhi,
Bainbridge Photographer.





PANORAMIC VIEW of East Side from Hillside west of Susquehanna River; west side land designated Great Lot No. 36, taken up by N.B. Stowell, now the Nesbitt place, and G. Cook, now the Hi-Line Rance, and the R. Chamberlin place, now vacant. View to the East side below Bettsburgh includes Great Lots 35 and 37; buildings visible left to right after the road to the river show Davey's stables (center) and at the far right the buildings of the VanDerHeides, in former School District Number 6. Purchased by Governor George Clinton from the Oneida Indians, the Great Lots were numbered and assigned by lot to the Vermont Sufferers in compensation for damages in the disputes with New Hampshire and Vermont during the Revolutionary period.





EBEN LANDERS TRACT, taken up in 1787 appears on the 1875 map as C.S. Landers on the northern border of Great Lot 61 in school district 12. In the 1930's the property was purchased by Dr. Carlton J.H.

Hayes who named the remodeled mansion Jericho Farm. Present owners, the D.C. Fabricius family, continue improvements, offering bed and breakfast. 1957 photo by Davies' Studio of Afton.



EAST MAIN STREET at Maple in the Village of Afton, Pearsall Store, then E.R. Gregory and Son, the residence of the Rev. Clifford and Lillian Webb, and now Sunshine Hill Gift Shop operated by Bumans. Lew Bradshaw residence at the right and Art Colvin at far right on Route 41. Buildings at left removed fro I-88 off-ramp.

FIRST MEETING HOUSE, Union church erected in 1818 by Universalist and Presbyterian congregations. Later used as school bus garage, and leased by Gregory family to various business for storage. Davies' Studio, 1957.

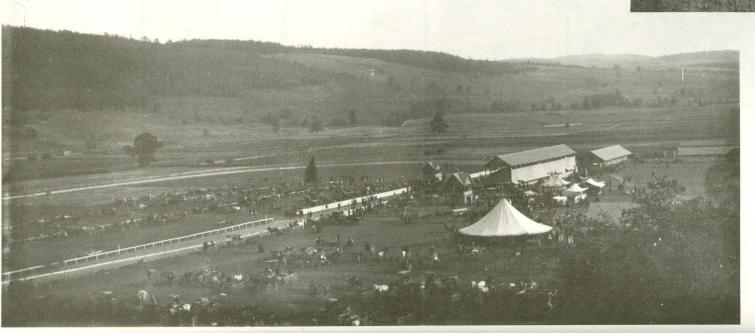


AFTON DRIVING PARK and AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION

Fair Gate House and Mormon House at entrances to the grounds: Mormon house so-called because Joseph Smith and Emma Hale eloped from Harmony, Pa. to be married here by Esquire Tarbell January 18, 1827. Efforts to raise funds to preserve the house for a museum failed and the building was razed about 1947.

Well-filled parking area.



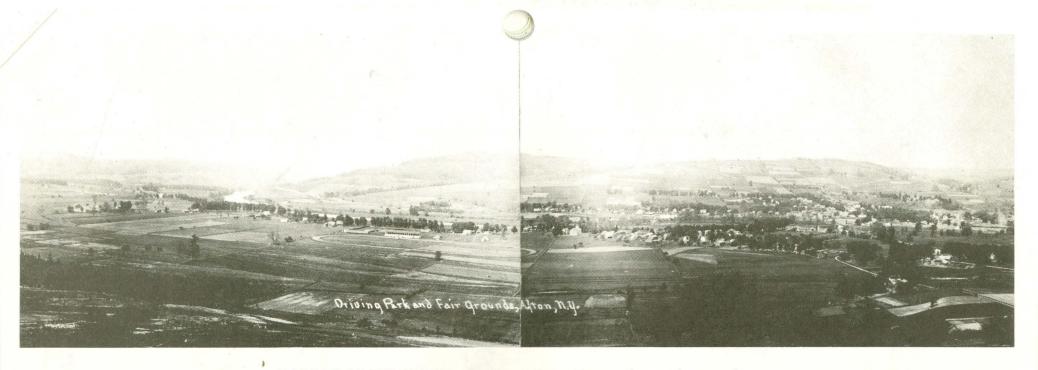


GROUNDS at fifteenth annual Fair September 20, 21, 22, 23, 1904; gates opened at 7:30 a.m. Admission. ladies members, 50¢; single admission to grounds, 25¢; ticket for carriage, 25¢, Membership ticket admits member, wife, children under 12, \$4. President Fred Church, Marshall and Chief of Police George Aylsworth. Glass plate negative from estate of Lee Pomeroy, about 1904.

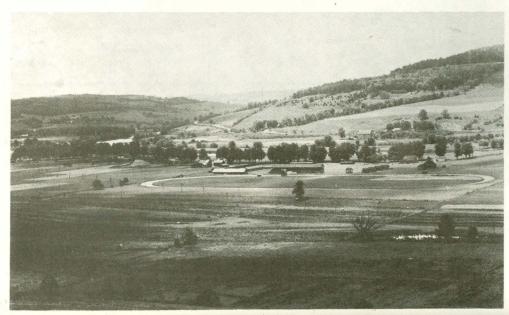




AFTON DRIVING PARK and AGRICUL-TURAL EXPOSITION as it looked the turn of the century. The grandstand is at the left and the Mormon House at the right in the background. The parking and picnicking area are shown in the center. Note the elegant "two seater" in the foreground.



PANORAMIC VIEW of Afton Fair Grounds as depicted in postal cards popular at the time; card at lower right is postmarked "NINEVEH JUNE 27, 1912."









PONY CART with Everrette Weeks and friend, near Grandstand; cart is now in Afton Museum and decorated for 1987 season.

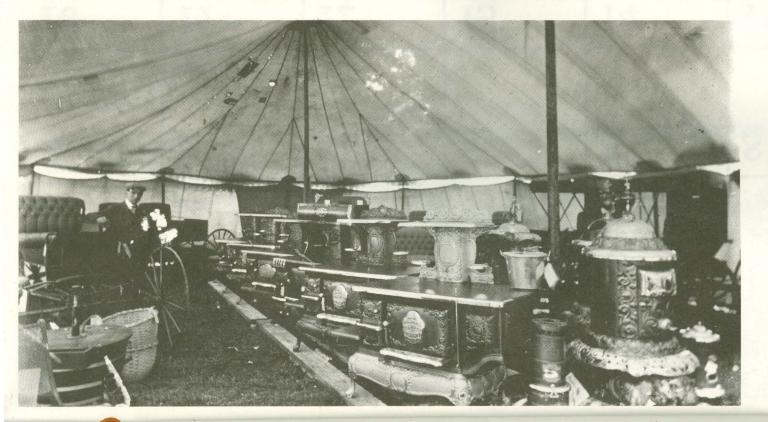
FAIR GROUNDS showing racetrack and grandstand with Judges' stand at right of photo. Bell tower of the Universalist church shows at the right in the distance.

UNCLE AMOS CASWELL with Aunt Abbie enjoy the sights from their buggy, about 1904. Glass plate negative from the estate of Lee Pomeroy.





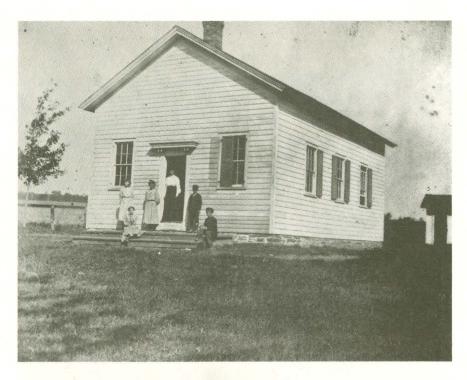




POPULAR ATTRACTIONS

at the annual Afton Fair included displays of livestock, vehicles such as the hay wagon, and of course the Baby Beauty Contest! Shown here is a pre-World War I crop; lady at far right is Daisy Decker with daughter Ruth who was born in 1911.

DISPLAY TENT shows the last word in heating and cooking equipment by a local hardware store. From Glass Plate negative, Lee Pomeroy Estate about 1904.



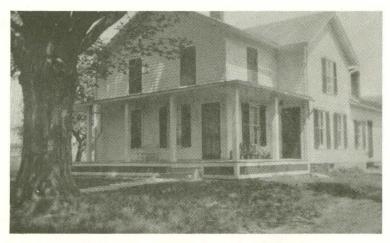


PERCH POND SCHOOLHOUSE in 1905: EX-TERIOR: left to right; Julia Pinney, Maude Parsons, Blanche Parsons, Teacher Tena Griggs, Elton Parsons, Harry Hurlburt.



PERCH POND SCHOOL HOUSE, now Cemetery Association Building, in Colesville, Broome County.

SEPTEMBER 1905 Perch Pond Schoolhouse, INTERIOR: Harry Hurlburt, Maude Parsons, Elton Parsons, Teacher Tena Griggs, Julia Pinney, and Blanche Parsons, mother of Thelma Brown.



SOUTH OF FAIR GROUNDS, known as George Tingley place, formerly home of Charles W. Decker.



R.R. CHURCH FARM, later owned by Frank Faulkner, now by Fritz Schultz; photo dated September 1902 from Old Onaquaga Historical Society, Harpursville.



ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA, opposite Frank Faulkner driveway, looking south.



ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER, looking north, photo by Phelps.





BELOW FAIR GROUNDS, known as Red Shutters Tea Room, operated by Bess Mason and her mother Elizabeth Wood. Photo shows George and Leonora Decker in their buggy when they owned it about 1910.

BETTSBURGH CORNERS, in Great Lots 35 and 37. House at left believed to be Merritt; mansard roof house built by Enos Johnston in 1876, occupied by George Gregg family; now Dawn Cross family.

Next house built in 1815 used as tenant house by farm owners. Across road is house used as cheese factory producing 550 pounds a day. Taller building housed store and Post Office, first in the town; settlement named after Peter Betts.

On road leading to river were saw mill, grist mill and carding mill, powered by water.



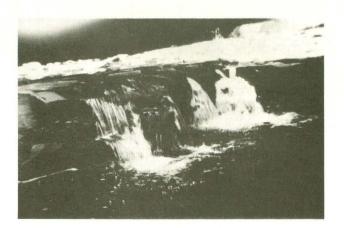
DECKER homestead in the 1920's. Decker Porch built by Frank Lewis and son in 1909 of hand cast, hand tamped concrete, still in good condition. On Great Lot 62, part of grant settled by the Cornwells.



THE GEORGE AUSTIN FARM, later owned by Clarence and Lena Gifford family, looking toward Bettsburgh.

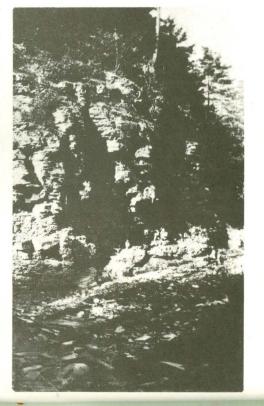


THE HOME OF REX TRACY and later his sister Lucy Tracy Johnson; more recently the home of Tom Kelly, Sr.



HIGH WATER ON ROUTE 41 in early 1930's; taken from Renner farm. Buildings of Fran Secrest, formerly Don Whitson, seen in the distance.

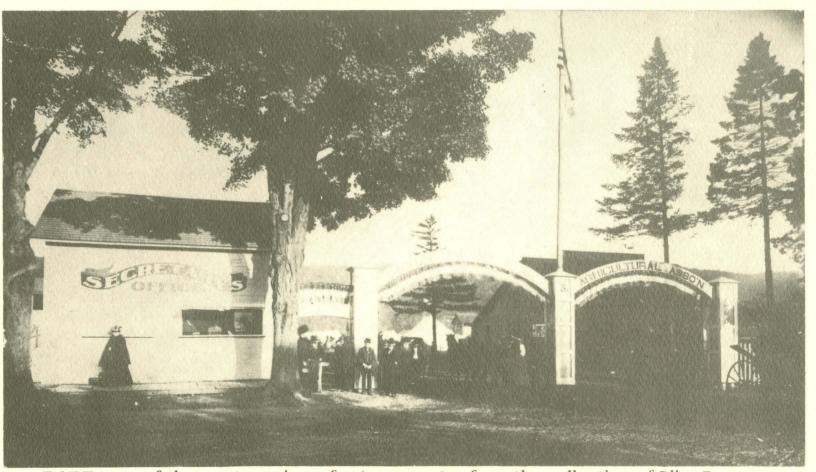
"THE ROCKS" east of I-88 on Cornell Creek, formerly favorite picnic site. Joseph Smith is said to have dug for treasure further up the stream.



THE AFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

remembers . . .

One Hundred Years of the Afton Fair 1890 - 1989



RARE turn-of-the-century view of entrance gates from the collection of Olive Bassett

Calendar for 1989

Remembering the Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Exposition

Following the Afton Township Fair, the Afton Agricultural Society by name, an association was formed in 1889 and 1890 with a purchase of 79 acres of land from Levi Johnson at the location of the present Afton Fair Grounds.

The "Town Fair" was founded in 1858 on the property of Erastus Fisher on the West side of East Main Street; this fair continued annually to 1868.

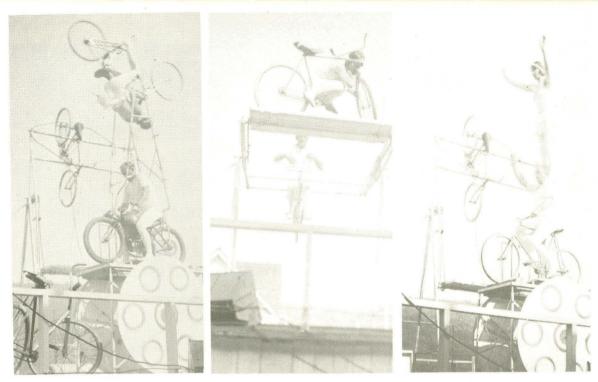
According to the Afton Fair Golden Jubilee edition of the Afton Enterprise, July 20, 1939, the first Fair of the newly formed association was held September 23 - 26, 1890. The company was incorporated in July 1920, with a capital stock of \$20,000 with some hundred shareholders in the corporation.

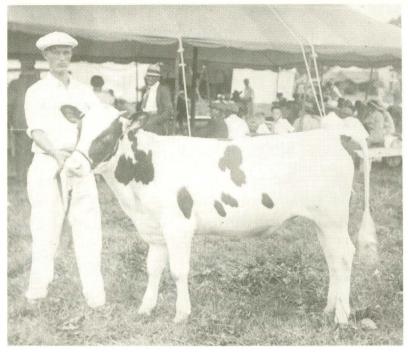
The Fair always encouraged horseracing, and as auto racing became popular, featured these events on an additional or fifth day.

The 1939 report states "The Fair boasts of the first cattle show, one which would be a credit to any State Fair." Herd development and husbandry have long been sources of profit and pride in the Susquehanna Valley.



1890 POSTER — Bassett Collection





Livestock exhibits, including 1933

4-H entries of









Afton Fair Parades traditionally feature floats, especially youth organizations:

A. Early 1930's Girl Scouts of America, with Alieta Miles holding flag, Florence Brown, Scout, Ethel Jeffers, Soldier, Miriam Tabor, Scout, Sarah Rhinebeck, Sailor, Thelma Brown, holding flag, George Holmes, Driver. Scene faces west, showing Fair office in background

B. Girl Scout Float, Encie Young and Margaret Whitmore at pump, Holly Beman with pail, George Fransisco, Driver.

C. Afton 4-H Club, early nineteen thirties, looking toward East Main Street, with Arts and Crafts Building and Grange Building in background.

Photos by Harry Horton from albums furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Wilcox.







- A. Afton school children with their teachers grace this AHS float; even the wheels and horsepower are tastefully decorated. Photo furnished by Glenn Russ.
- B. Birth of the Flag scene featuring Betsy Ross and company, grandstand in background. Glenn Russ donation to Afton Historical Society.
- C. Middlebridge School, District Number 5, 1930 entry. Teacher Frances Wrench at left. Horton photo.



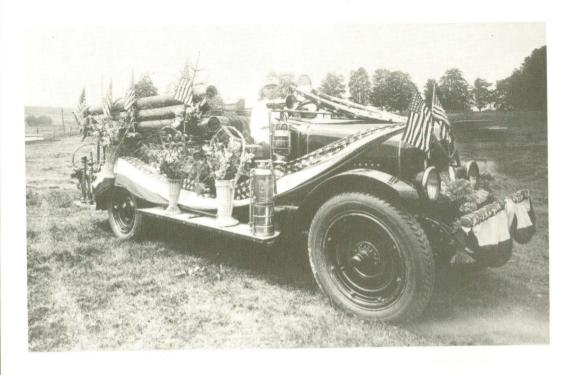
A. 1933 entry of the Order of the Eastern Star, Afton, featuring the Rainbow and luxuriently trimmed with greenery. Recently, Afton OES merged with Bainbridge OES. Horton photo.

B. Grand Army of the Republic honoring one of the last surviving veterans of the Civil War, John Burton Woodruff seated by flag. Fair office building in background. Horton photo.

C. WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union) organized in Afton February 26, 1888 active in organizing groups in area, especially bringing the message to youth. Concerts, skits, chalk talks, demonstrations furnished a multi-media approach to supplement lectures. Many contemporary parades showed formations of white clad members of this group. Slogan at tent reads, "A Saloonless Nation in 1920 — The Liquor Traffic Must Go." G. Russ post card.

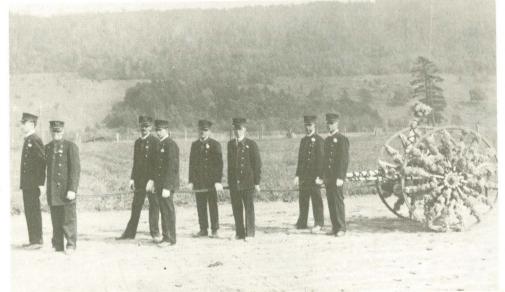






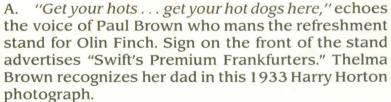
- A. Afton Hose Company pride and joy of 1930 . . . the Larrabee Fire Truck! Flags, bunting, baskets of flowers cannot hide this gleaming example of the state of the art of fighting fires with all-volunteer manpower.

 Horton.
- B. Afton Hose Company manpower propells the two-wheel hose cart that replaced the good ole' bucket brigade of yesteryear. Photo from the album of Daisy Decker, late grandmother of historian Charles J. Decker.
- C. Well remembered Citizens Band in formation, showing the mobility of two teams of faithful four-legged friends. Haywagon beautifully decorated with flowers, greens and trees. Afton Historical Association photo.









B. Exhibit of DeLaval milking machine equipment, gentlemen right to left: Chet Drake, dad of Don Drake; Hugo Gregory, father of Elwood and Gordon Gregory and Ruth Gregory Gregg; and Jerome Clark.

C. Array of farm implements: spring tooth harrow, drag, moldboard plows and wagons. Banner before the tent advertises "Happy Thought Stoves and Ranges/Clark L. Horton, We don't want your money, just your attention." (for inside of tent, see facing August in 1988 calendar). Clark is father of the late Harry Horton of Horton's Hardware.







MIDWAY SCENES:
Believe it or not;
guess your weight;
merry-go-round, and
Ferris wheel attract
throngs.







Photo from the Olive Bassett Collection



The Track: Judges stand bears numerals 1890; legend "Track Record 2:101/4 by Woolworth Aug. 11, 1916" political banner on rail promotes "Percy Woodruff, Republican Candidate for Commissioner of Public Welfare/Qualified by Service and Training." Horton Photo.



The Grandstand, with its ventilated exhibition booths beneath, has outlasted many more imposing structures, and is still in use. Pomeroy Glass Plate negative.



Events of Summer Mark the Afton Fair

A. Stetson Radio Band on stage before the grandstand entertains the throngs. 1933 Horton photo. B. Howard Taft Burt of Chenango Bridge and Pearl Grace Parks of Binghamton recite their vows on stage before the grandstand at the 1930 Afton Fair.

C. Chills, thrills as spectators watch the ever popular "High Dive!"









A Sampling of Parade Floats at the Afton Fair



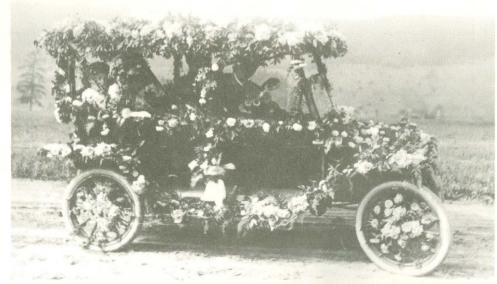




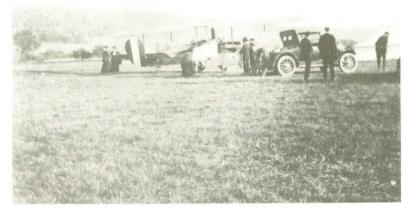


And still they come . . . more floats at Afton Fair Parade









- A. **Gate House in 1930**Shorn of arches and trim, the ticket officer serves function in classic form.
 - B. "Our Aeroplanes" visited the grounds, and itinerant barnstormers thrilled the crowds giving daring youngsters rides over familiar streams and fields.
 - C. Overview

 A glimpse back in time to the turn of the century when four-legged creatures and shanks-mares brought the crowds for an all day show, and family outing.

JOSEPH SMITH Jr. FOUNDER OF THE MORMON CHURCH AND MISS EMMA HALE were married in this house January 18, 1827, by Esquire Tarbell at Afton, Chenango County, N, Y.

Pub by Marshall G. Hill, Afton, N. Y.



AFTON FAIR AFTON FAIR

The Mormon House

At the entrance to the Fair Grounds stands an historical marker on the site of the famous Mormon House, the home of Esquire Tarbell who married the eloping Joseph Smith and Miss Emma Hale January 18, 1827. Long an attraction for visiting tourists and members of the faith, efforts to preserve the structure for a museum were unsuccessful, and the building was razed about 1947. Here, several favorite post card views.

THE AFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

remembers . . .

Our SUSQUEHANNA RIVER VALLEY:

Cooperstown to Binghamton, New York

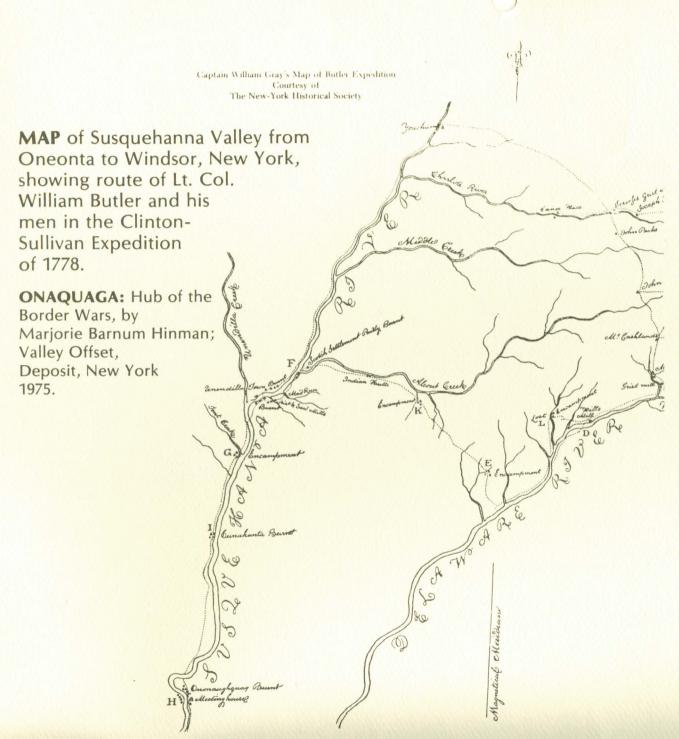
1990 Calendar



ERNESTINE BUCKING MURAL

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAT STAFFORD

The new Afton Community Center features an original mural on the north wall of the Susquehanna Room measuring twelve by four feet. Commissioned by a grant from the Chenango County Council on the Arts, the painting represents a winter scene from below the bridge, looking northwest toward the village.



THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER VALLEY

The Susquehanna River Valley has been the heart of communication for this area from the time of the Iroquois, when Indian trails led to and from the river and the Native Americans traveled its waters by canoe. Today the river still fulfills that function.

The river has been the route of religion, exploration, warfare, commerce and recreation. In 1753, Rev. Gideon Hawley came to Old Onaquaga, now Windsor, as a missionary from Stockbridge, Mass. In 1769, Richard Smith traveled down the river and recorded his observations. In 1799, Gen. James Clinton and his army descended from Otsego Lake to destroy the villages and crops of the Indians of the valley.

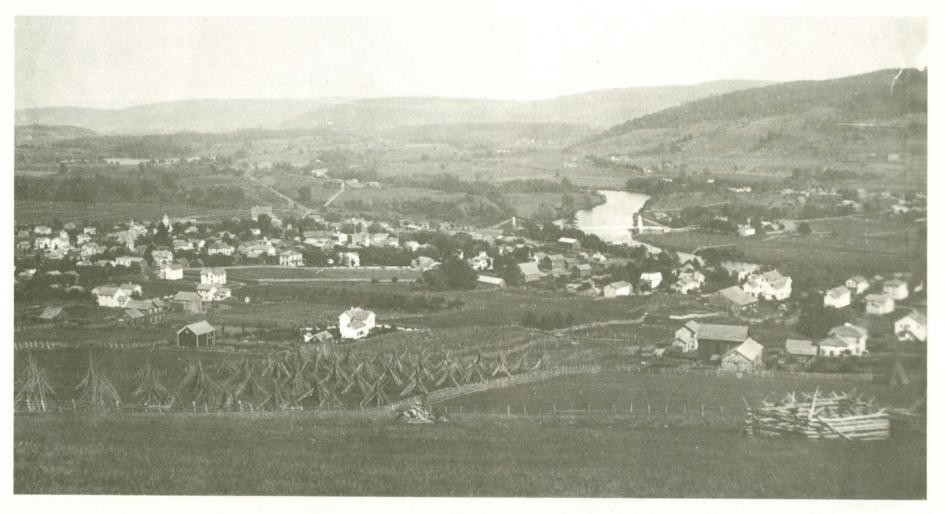
As white settlements developed, potash, produced from the ashes of trees burned in clearing the land, was sent down the river for shipment to England to be used in processing wool. Later, rafts of timber from the upland woodlands were floated to markets such as Baltimore. Flat-bottomed arks were constructed to transport grain as the fields began to produce. Small boats for pleasure were common in the 19th century, but the few attempts at steamboating were short-lived because of the shallowness of the water.

The Catskill Turnpike came first as far as Wattle's Ferry, now Unadilla, where local roads followed the river. When railroads came in the 1860's, they also followed the easier grades of the valley. For the first time, goods could be easily moved upstream. One onta, Susquehanna, and Binghamton, as junction points, became important rail centers.

The modern highways, Route 7 and later I-88, continued to follow the valley from Oneonta to Harpursville. Even the new fiber-optic underground telephone cables follow this route as did the old telegraph and telephone wires.

The Susquehanna has affected our lives in countless ways in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

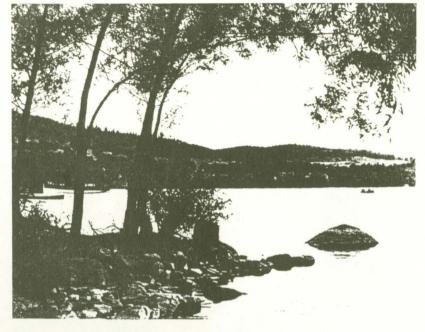
by Charles J. Decker, Historian of Afton, New York

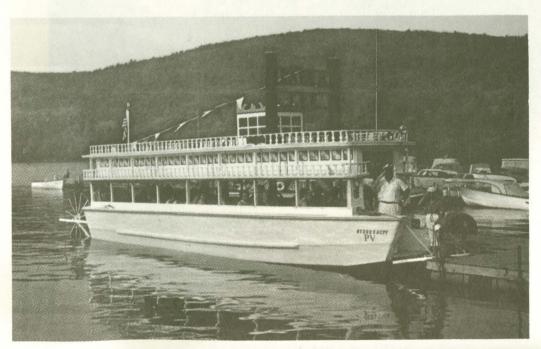


VIEW OF AFTON from the west in the 1880's. Stacks of hop poles remind us of the hop yard growing culture in this area, centered in Otsego county. Some 32 farms produced hops in the town of Afton in 1902, after which the trade deminished. At the right side of the photograph is the old Nickerson place with large dairy barn, now the location of the Afton Community Center. Mill Street runs at the right edge of the picture where was located a sawmill operated by stream run off from the many springs on the side hill occupied by this early photographer, name unknown.









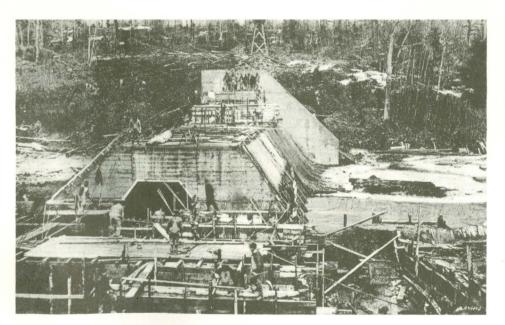
Susquehanna River at its source, Otsego Lake, Cooperstown, New York. (Brown)

Council Rock, at the outlet of Otsego Lake, a meeting place of Indians of the area; boulder marking site of Clinton's Dam nearby.

(Cooperstown, by Louis C. Jones, Otsego County Historical Society, 1949)

The Paula Lee, an excurion boat on Otsego Lake. (Decker)



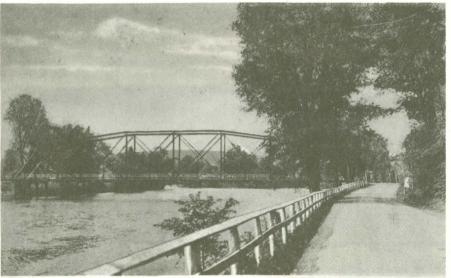


The Collier Dam, begun in 1906 at the site of one built by Jared Goodyear in 1823; provided hydro-electric power for lights and inter-urban railway, known as Goodyear Lake. (Bassett)

Construction of dam which backs up Susquehanna River to form lake; canoeists portage around the dam. (Colvin)

Power Plant, recently dismantled, but dam remains to provide recreational area around lake. (Decker)



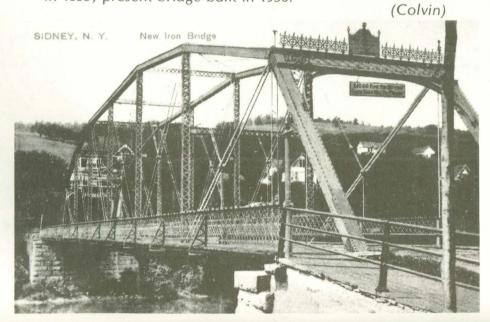


UPPER BRIDGE, UNADILLA, N. Y.

Unadilla has two bridges, just as it has two access ramps from Interstate 88 highway.

(Bassett)

Bridge at Sidney built 1894 replaced covered bridge erected in 1853; present bridge built in 1936.





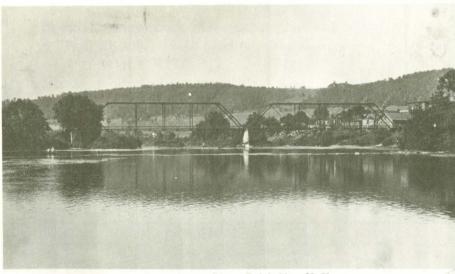
Park in Unadilla stretches along Susquehanna; bench inscribed "In Memory of Frederick Thomas Hayes, 1808, 1894." (Bassett)

Daniels Boating and Bathing Resort at Sidney, long gone. (Colvin)





Bainbridge along East River Road, looking North.
(Baciuska)



Susquehanna River, Bainbridge, N. Y.

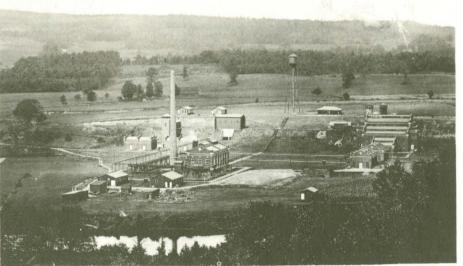
Old Iron Bridge, Bainbridge.

(Baciuska)



Bainbridge, along the Susquehanna.

(Brown)



Ansco Company's Plant, Afton, N. Y.

Ansco Plant, used pure water of Afton Lake for processing during World War I; closed in 1930; lake and land sold in 1947 to Afton Lake Association for residential development. (Decker)

Bridge Over Susquehanna River, Afton, N. Y.



Present concrete bridge completed in 1948 replaces the 1904-1905 steel bridge in Afton.

(Guy)

Birdseye view of Afton from East; the hill, now tree covered was then open. Evergreens planted by A.A. Mudge Jr. intended to protect the many springs to which Spring Street led. (Decker)



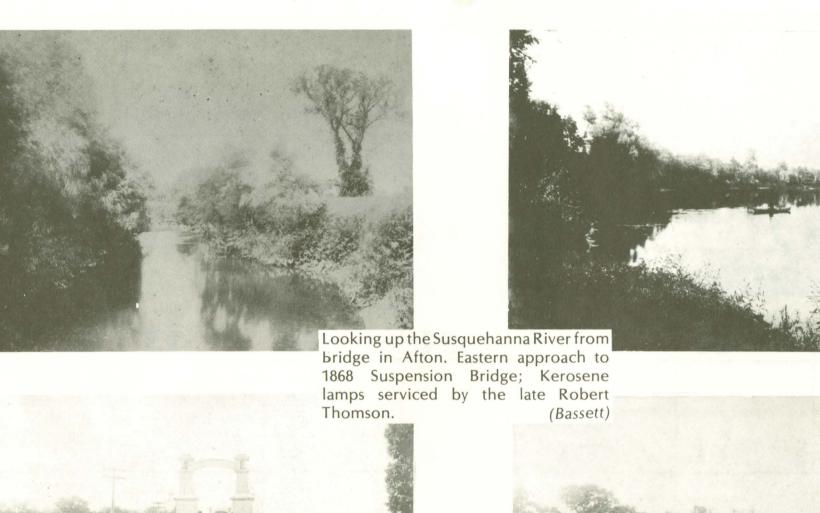


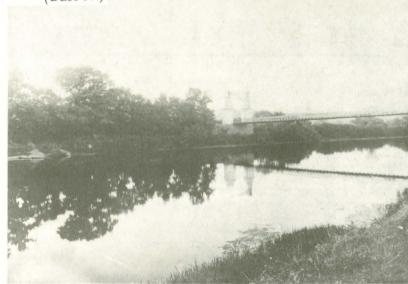
Looking south toward the west bank. (E

(Bassett)

Looking south from bridge to flats now Renner.
(Bassett)









Nineveh Junction, where Albany and Susquehanna Railroad (Now D&H) met southern branch of Delaware and Hudson Canal Co. RR.

(Decker)



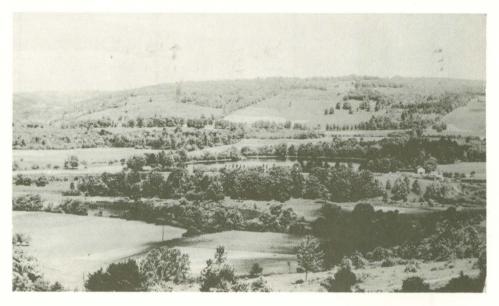


Nineveh iron bridge now being replaced with concrete span. (Decker)

Village of Nineveh, Upper section, and lower section of hamlet along present route 7.

(Decker)





Afton Lake surrounded by farm lands.

(Bassett)

The Bridge, Center Village, postal card marked NINEVEH, FEB. 17, 1908. Addressed to Martha White signed "Mary."

(Brown)



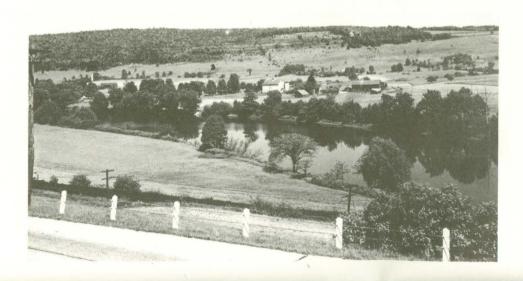


Susquehanna from route 7 looking across islands below Bettsburgh. D&H tracks follow river.

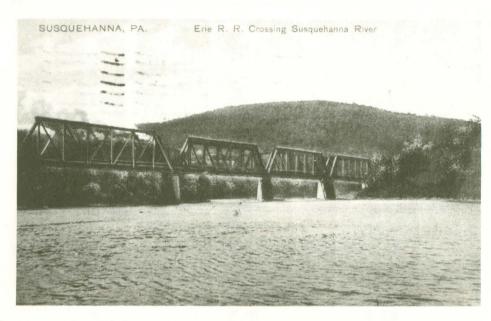
(Decker)

The Susquehanna from Route 7 across to farms then owned by Allen Renner and Arthur Grover.

(Decker)



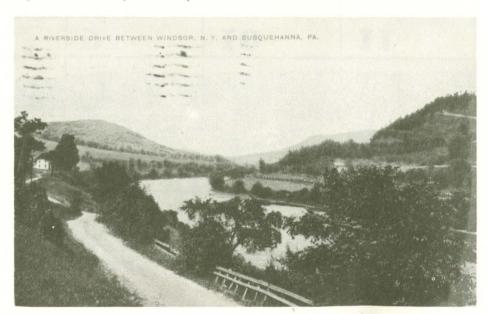


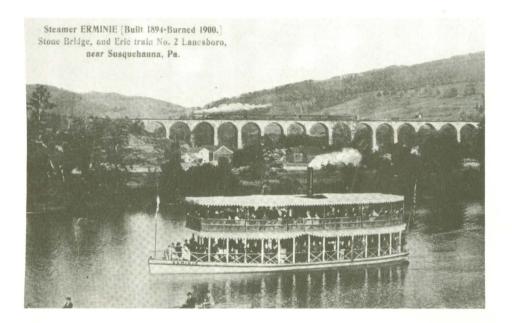


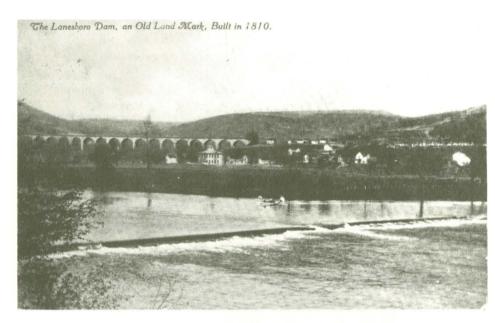
COLUMBIA GROVE, actually in South Windsor, N.Y., began as resort area in 1895. Steamboats "Erminie" and "Idlewild" from Lanesboro, Pa., had stops there.

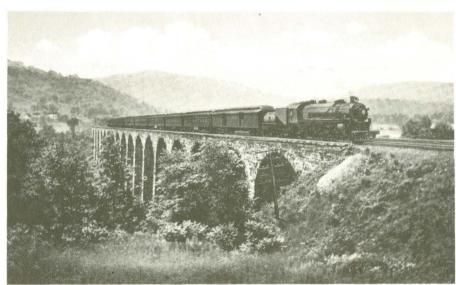
("River and Drive view. Brown; other three, Decker)











ERIE RAILROAD TRAIN AND STARRUCCA VIADUCT AT LANESBORO, SUSQUEHANNA, PA

Dam in the Susquehanna at Lanesboro dates from 1810. Steamboat "Erminie" carried excursion passengers between Lanesboro, Pa. and Big Island, N.Y. from 1880 to about 1896. Starrucca Viaduct built in 1848 at a cost of \$320,000, most costly RR bridge in the world at that time. 12,000 feet long, 110 feet high, continues to support traffic of Erie Railroad.

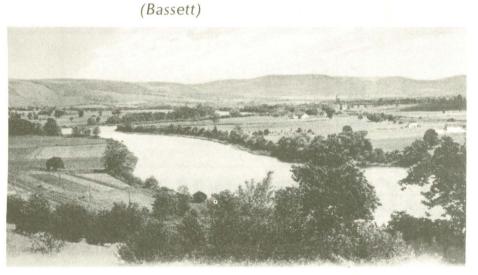
(Decker)





Views of the Susquehanna as it approaches Binghamton from the south, to meet the Chenango River and the Chenango Canal from the north. Locks from the Canal Boat Basin gave access to the Susquehanna, at "Chenango Point." Binghamton Government Complex built on site. Completed in 1969.







Afton Suspension Bridge crossed our River midway between Binghamton and Oneonta, also between Scranton Pa. and Albany, N.Y. Built in 1869, it replaced a covered bridge, and was replaced in 1904 by iron bridge. The main span was 362 feet, towers were 36 feet high. Bonds for \$12,000 were issued by the town for this first toll-free bridge here.

(Bassett)

The Afton Historical Society

Remembers

TRANSPORTATION:

Getting Around In The Good Old Days . . .

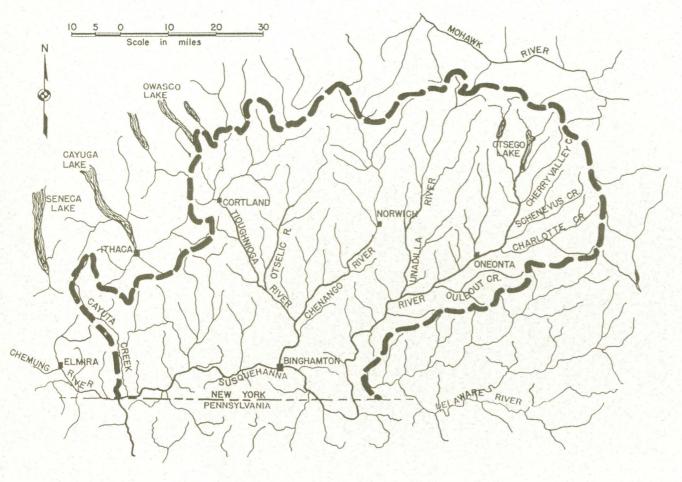
1991 Calendar



In 1931 Afton High School consolidated to Afton Central High School; four 1932 Ford school buses were purchased to gather the students from the several country school districts. Fleet shown on the former playgrounds, now occupied by the Elementary wing.

MUSEUM PHOTO

MAP A SUSQUEHANNA RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN



The Susquehanna River Valley has been a route of transportation since the earliest appearence of human beings.

The Native American paddled his canoes on the river and walked the trails along it.

Rev. Gideon Hawley, as a missionary, traveled the river in 1753 on his way to Old Onaquaga from Stockbridge, Mass.

In 1778, Col. William Butler and his troops marched down the valley from Old Unadilla to burn Cunahunta and other Indian villages in a Revolutionary War operation. The next August, General James Clinton brought 1800 men and 220 boats from Otsego Lake to join General John Sullivan at Tioga Point in a widespread campaign to eliminate the Indians as a threat to the American war effort.

In 1786, Ebenezer and Olive Landers walked in the snow from Unadilla to their frontier cabin in present Afton on their trip from Lenox, Mass.

One of the earliest sources of income for newly established farmers was from log rafts floated to down-river ports such as Baltimore.

A plank toll road from Coventry to Deposit followed the river from Nineveh to Bettsburgh to connect with the new Erie Railroad in the 1850's. The Albany & Susquehanna Railroad, now the D. & H., reached Afton in 1867.

In 1850, an unsuccessful attempt to operate the Bainbridge-made steamboat "Enterprise" resulted in its sale to a more suitable location. However, the "Erminie" and "Idlewild" did provide transportation for pleasure seekers between Lanesboro and Windsor in the 1880's and 90's.

As road networks expanded, all kinds of foot and vehicular traffic increased. Farm products were transported to shipping points and manufactured goods were returned. Drovers supervised the ground travel of thousands of sheep, pigs, cows, and poultry to market.

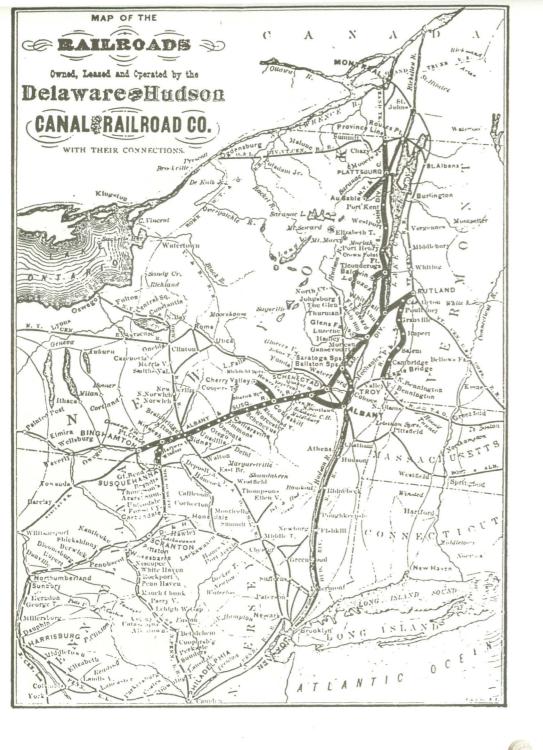
The coming of the automobile speeded the paving of roads and the building of strong bridges over the river. Buses and trucks gradually replaced trains for the carrying of people and goods.

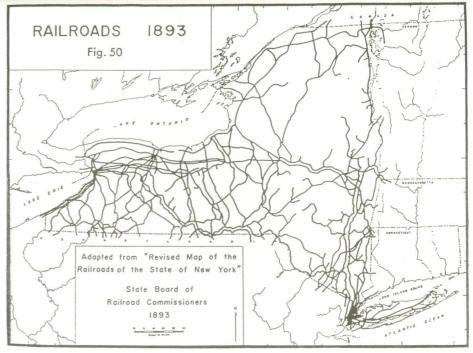
The centralization of schools brought the first fleet of four school buses to Afton in 1932. Buses and car pools got people to work during the difficult days of World War II.

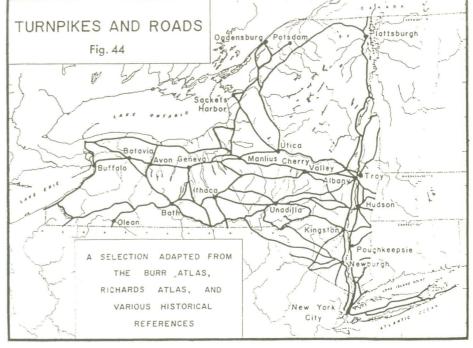
In the 1960's, the construction of Interstate 88 forever changed the face of the valley as people sped by on their way to work, shopping, or entertainment in larger communities.

Only the future can tell of future developments as we travel the highway to the airport to jet overseas to an exotic vacation spot.

Submitted by Charles J. Decker, Afton Town Historian. March 20, 1990.









In 1930, Walter Callen's rural mail route covering Oak Hill and Nurse Hollow depended upon this handsome team.

By 1934, Walt's truck was on skis which let down for heavy going in deep snow.

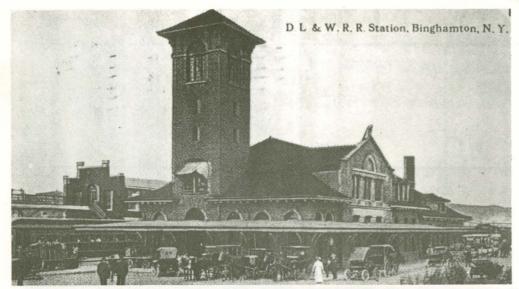
Young Bob Callen holds wrench to change from wheels to skis as needed.

Photos courtesy of Mildred Callen.

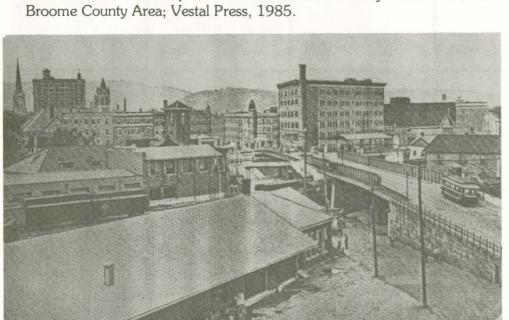








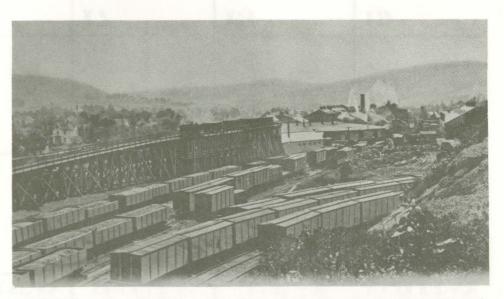
Passengers arrive and depart D L & W station in Binghamton; built in 1901, the architect was Samuel Huckel of New York City. Station now houses offices and shops. A Picture Postcard History of New York's Broome County Area; Vestal Press, 1985.



Trolleys, motorized and horsedrawn vehicles use Chenango Street overpass to cross railroad tracks near the Binghamton stations. A Picture Postcard History of New York's Broome County Area; Vestal Press, 1985.

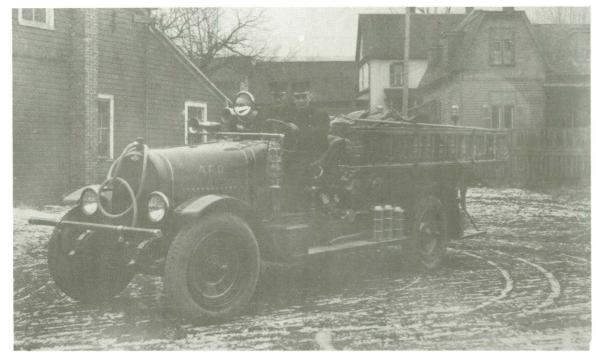


Binghamton yards show Erie tracks at right and D & H at left; Erie tracks laid on open farm land in 1848. A Picture Postcard History of New York's Broome County Area; Vestal Press, 1985.



D&H Shops in Oneonta serviced largest engines in maintenance and repairs.

Vintage German postal card loaned by Mildred Scott.



Afton's first motorized fire truck, Larrabee 1923, stands behind the Afton Inn near the location of the present Afton Hose Company building, Spring Street. Bruce Keator and Lawrence Slater in uniform.

Afton Fire Truck built by Fire Appliance Corp of Buffalo. 1938 license plate bears legend: "New York World's Fair 1939." The chassis is a White truck construction.

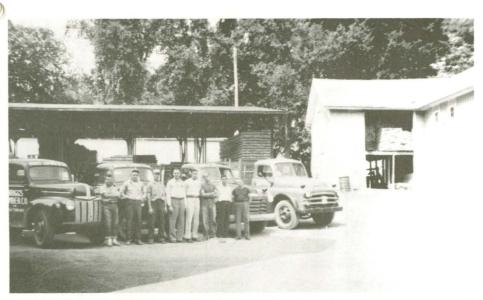
Afton Historical Society photographs, Museum Collection.





Harry Horton seated in one of the last of his stock of buggies.

Photo from Glenn Russ.



1960's fleet of delivery trucks of Briggs Lumber Company, now site of Afton Country Mall. Left to right: George Vicary, Keith Willis, Ross Willis, John Tobey (manager), Bill Poole, Hollis Barre, Jud Fenner, Peter Fritz.

Photo from Hollis Barre.



Teams and wagons in front of former Afton Post Office, later known as Whitman Block, once housed Dr. Charles Graf's office, now a beauty shop.

Photo from Mary Elizabeth Hayes Tucker.



Randolph Guy has team in hand rounding the corner of Academy onto Spring Street, before the house now owned by Alton and Sally Jenks.

Harriet Carr VanValkenburg Collection.



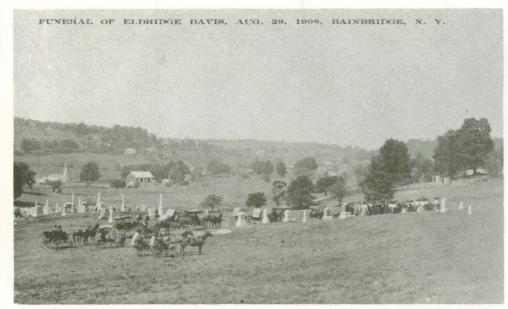
Toll gate near Oneonta similar to those on the Delaware and Susquehanna Plank Road from Deposit to Bettsburgh, to Nineveh and Coventry. 1911 Postmark.

Collection of Charles J. Decker.



Wagon loads of hay pulled by sturdy teams cross ford near Oneonta.

Charles J. Decker Collection.



Funeral of Eldridge Davis, August 20, 1908, at Bainbridge Cemetery.

Pat Stafford Collection.



Nineveh firm of Hobbs Brothers made hearses, carriages, and repaired circus wagons. No. 2 French Glass Landau shown.

Jericho Historical Society.



Rebuilt after the fire of August 1884, Afton business district offers ample hitchin' space for customers in 1904.

Phelps Glass Plate Negative.



Paved in 1914, Main Street began to hum with automotive traffic.

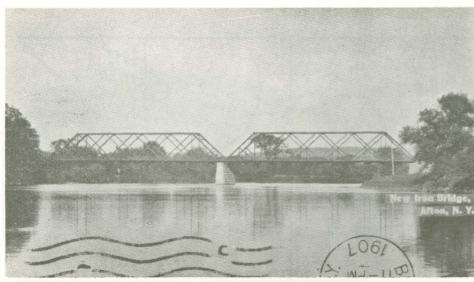


Motorists were served by Morgan Brothers who sold Texaco products; Inn had garage for repairs and service.



Pledge Partridge and friends in buggy at site of present Great American. End block burned in fire, other two torn down for rebuilding.

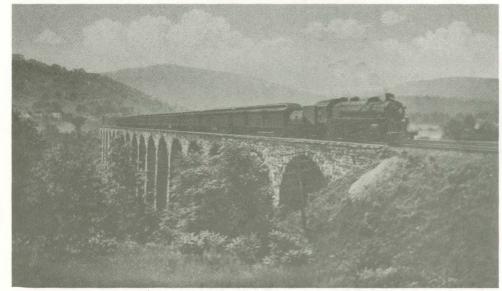
Charles J. Decker Collection.



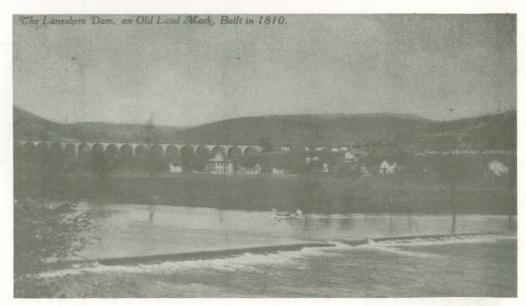
Postcard published by W.C. Handy shows "New Iron Bridge erected 1904." The winter was so cold that workmen worked from frozen surface of the Susquehanna River.



Train made up of passenger, freight, and mail cars passes over D&H Trestle between Harpursville and Nineveh.



Starrucca viaduct on Erie Railroad built in 1848; early passengers walked across bridge rather than risk collapse. It has carried heaviest traffic ever since.



Lanesboro Dam in the Susquehanna River built in 1810 and viaduct built in 1848; power speed boat on card dated 1913.

Photos from Decker Collection.





Summer time rest and relaxation: Donkey trap.

Photo from Mary Elizabeth Hayes Tucker.

Rowboat near river bank camp shows "Great Aunt Ann" (Mrs. Norman Hall, Mother of Josephine Mackley, Henry Hall, and Nettie Doolittle); Josephine Mackley, and Florence Carr, mother of Harriett Carr VanValkenberg.

Goldie Pratt - Lena VanGelder Photo.

Cassius Fox on toy wagon pulled by Ellery and Bernett Decker, August 1916.

Ruth Decker rides work horse "Bess" to water, dated April 1917.

Joyce Tiffany takes pet cat for stroll in doll carriage, about 1931; daughter of Ralph Tiffany, garage owner lived in home now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Standish.

Decker Collection.









Back to school meant find your own transportation, even if it meant "shanks mare!" In 1921 Ruth, Ellery, and Bernice Decker attended Afton and stabled their horse in Presbyterian shed during the day. Previously they were picked up by Bruce Thomson as he came in from Howes.

Charles Decker Collection



Afton High School in the 1920's enrolled students from Sanataria Springs and "all up the line" who attended by traveling on one of the Milk Trains or Mail Trains on the D&H Railroad. Passenger service was brisk.

Collection of Harriet VanValkenburg



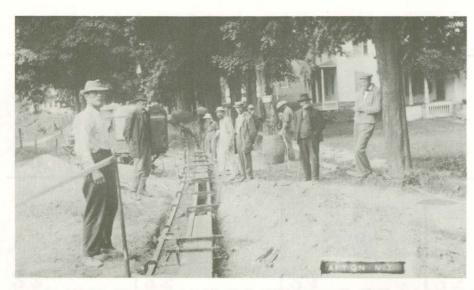
In the 1920's Pearl Demorier taught at country school, traveling in her new Ford; here, Eric Young, Don Shaw, Clarence Young, and Kenneth Hendrickson at North Afton Number 10.

Donated by Lynnette Loomis Baciuska.



"Teach's" new car! Pearl Demorier taught at Coventry schools, then in grades at Afton Central School.

Bacuiska Photo



In 1914 Afton was brought up to date with the improvement and paving of Main Street, New York State Route 7. Here, installation of curbing in front of present homes of Thelma Brown, Mary Leal, and Wayne Black. Foreground: Frank Lewis; Burt McHugh and Norman Hall at right.

Lena VanGelder Collection



Multiple horse teams working the road; Clark Smith in buggy at right.

Lena VanGelder Collection



Preparing the roadbed in front of location of present Great American food store; Frank Lewis and Sons, contractors.

Jericho Historical Society Collection



Old and new meet at end of paved part of Main Street in front of blacksmith shop of E.C. Mackley, now site of Tony Kane home.

Decker Collection





One of the photos submitted as evidence by lawyer Paul Brown at the fatal accident August 28, 1918. Paul Brown representing Asa Pixley, age 66 and Donald Shipman, 13, at the Afton D & H Crossing. Shown Flagman's shanty, creamery, Ford Garage, vintage vehicles.

Thelma B. Brown Collection

Crossing Guard Robert Craig at grade crossing, before construction of rail overpass in 1933.

Decker Collection

1965 train wreck tracks cleared by Raymond Smith and Gerald Roberts using simple tools with strength and skill; photo discarded from Binghamton Press morgue, rescued by historian Marjorie Hinman, and presented to Afton Historical Society.





Teams of oxen, important draft and work animals of 19th century.

Pomeroy glass plate negative, c. 1909

Linn tractor "Tough Line" manufactured in Morris, New York plowing snow after a February 1926 storm. Scene on Orchard Street shows present home of W. Klatz and Mert Fenner. The tractor with caterpiller rear traction, pulled road grader.

Decker Collection

Back from the creamery with horse and sled in front of then Keators store, now Reithoffers Afton Bake Shop and Grange Hall.

Glenn Russ Collection



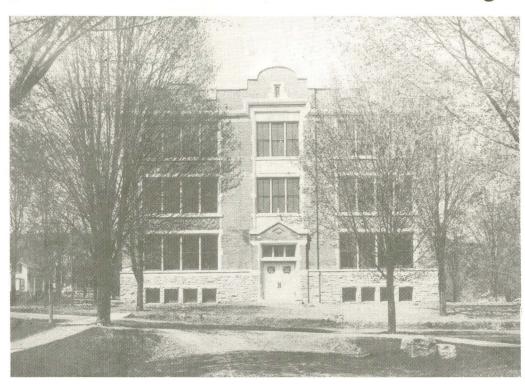


The Afton Historical Society

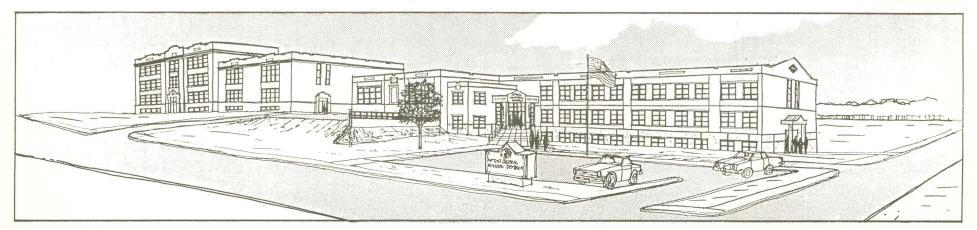
Remembers

The Good Old School Days

1992 Calendar



The 1908 building designed by architects T.I. Lacey & Son of Binghamton; cornerstone names board members Will Hall, Morris J. Mudge, and Philetus A. Hayes. Photo Courtesy Hazel Riley



Proposed Renovation and Expansion of Afton Central School

Afton is now entering its third century of providing schools to train its youth. The first log schoolhouse was located at the intersection on the East Side where Nathaniel Church began teaching in 1790. There were but a few students.

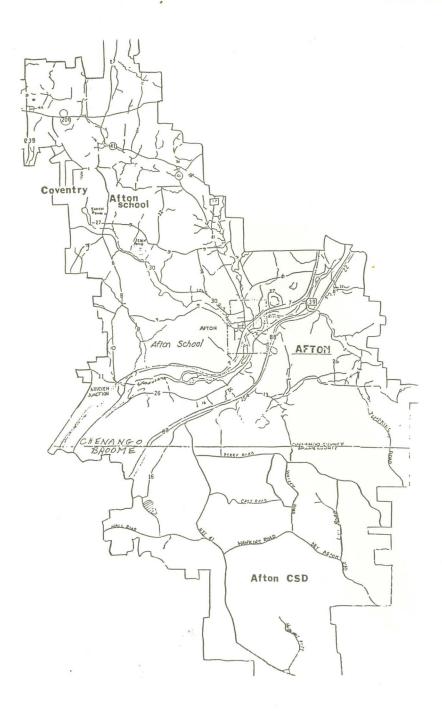
By the middle of the 19th century there were 13 common school districts, organized so that they would each be within walking distance of its students.

By 1870, the need for an academy was apparent and the first classes were held in the small house at the corner of Spring Street and Myrtle Avenue. In 1874, a merger of this school and District Schools 5 and 12 resulted in the Afton Union School and Academy. The larger wooden school, familiar in pictures, was built in 1875, with the wings added in 1877 and 1883. The first graduating class in 1879 had three members.

This building was adequate until 1908, when the main brick school was erected. Centralization brought many more students to the school which had been designated a high school in 1899. An addition with classrooms, auditorium, and gymnasium was added in 1929. Before the time of the brick school, programs and graduations had to be held in churches or in one of the halls such as the one upstairs in the Sullivan House, now the Afton Inn.

Successive additions in 1955 and 1967-1969 have made room for the children of the baby boom. At present, plans are being considered for further expansion and remodeling.

School laws have always affected what has to be done in a community such as Afton. Common schools were established as early as 1805 when Morgan Lewis was governor. The several district schools were the result. The Compulsory Education Law of 1895 required that all children up to 16 years of age must attend school, with certain exceptions when they are usefully employed. More recent legislation requires accommodations for disabled students.



After 1896, district school teachers had to be at least 18 years old and wages were \$5 per week. Teacher's Institutes were held for one or two weeks from the 1860's to the 1880's. Year long Training Classes were also held in places such as Windsor and Norwich. The State Normal Schools were established and now have become part of the SUNY system. In 1863, Oswego was the first with Oneonta coming later in 1887. This greatly improved the quality of teacher education.

Transportation was at first by foot. In about 1817, young Melissa Landers went to her school on a sled drawn by Kunkerpot, one of the few remaining Indians in the area. When the Academy came into being, students from a distance drove horses or boarded in town. To the High School came students by train with special rates given by the railroads. With the advent of dependable automobiles, some owners contracted to bring neighborhood children to school. Today, schoolbuses transport students not only to and from the Afton school, but to alternative schools and to athletic and scholastic events as well.

Staff has grown from one teacher in 1790 to 3 administrators, 65 instructional staff, and 66 non-instructional staff in 1990.

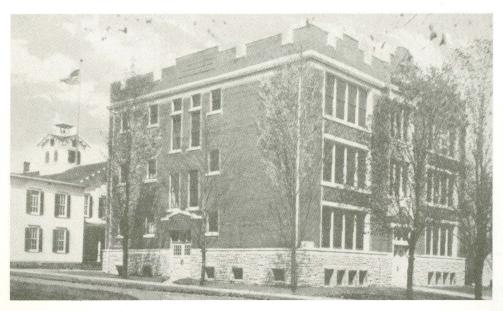
The student body, beginning with a handful in 1790, numbered 793 in 1990. Graduates each year are about 50.

Subjects and equipment unheard of only a few years ago are now standard in the curriculum. The body of knowledge to be learned has mushroomed. To a recently arrived senior citizen, World War I was the most recent war to be studied in grade school.

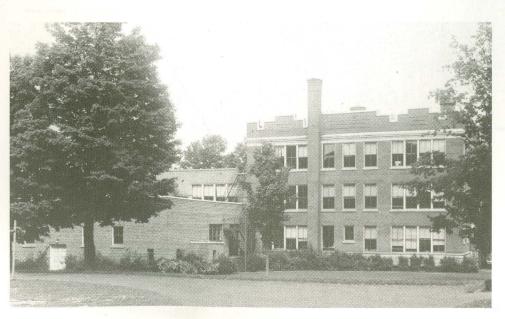
One thing stands out in learning about the schools of the past in Afton. That was the pride of its citizens in the community, the school, and its teachers. As we look forward to this third century of education in Afton, we must continue to provide the best that we can possibly afford in staff, curriculum, and facilities.

Charles J. Decker, Historian



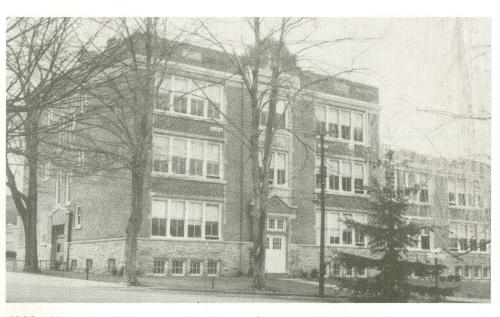


1908 building in front of old white wooden building which was torn down; some of the salvaged lumber used to build the home of the late Stanley LeSuer, now Keith Weeks, on Caswell Street, across from Town Barns.



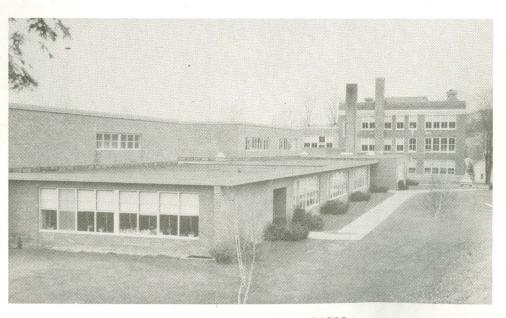
Rear view showing classroom and gymnasium wing; for the first time each class had home room and teacher.

Photo courtesy of Ned Poole.



1932 addition at right to accomodate increase from centralization.

Photo courtesy of Margaret Guy estate.



1955 Elementary Wing at rear of original brick building of 1908.

Photo courtesy of Margaret Guy estate.

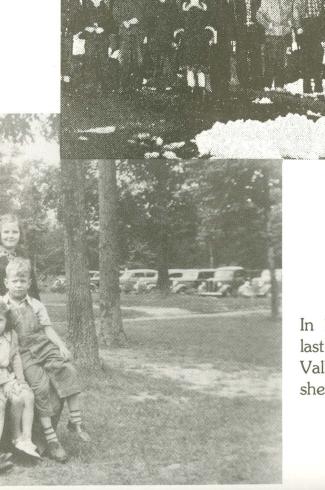




Basketball In The Early 1930's

Girls team: Front row: Thelma Tripp, Mary Gilmore, Doris Fransisco, Helen Pratt, Vina Fransisco, Betty Barr, Frances Hurlburt Pratt. Back Row: Fred "Tubby" Crane, Mildred Benedict, Katherine Wasson, Helen Foote, Gladys Tilford, Doris King, Fred Foster: Principal.

Boys' team: Front row: George Barr, Kenyon Page, Floyd Springsteen, Harry Blakesley, Howard Page; Back row: Fred "Tubby" Crane, Clifford Palmer, Dudley Grow, John Gregg, Robert Carr, Stanley Wasson, Fred Foster: Principal. In 1954 the Afton School had become so over-crowded that classes were held off premises: in the Presbyterian parish house and the old Victory store on Main Street. Here, teacher Helen Crosby watches her fourth grade class board their bus outside the school room, corner of Main and Spring Streets, Afton, New York.



In 1940 Pearl Demorier brought her last District School class to Chenango Valley State Park for a picnic; that fall she commenced teaching at ACHS.



BELOW:

Class of 1902, Afton High School. Standing: Julia Reed, Ralph Cass, Eva Bodley, David Grover, Flora Barber. Sitting: Lewis Rose, May Seeley, Frances Spooner, Ethel Hall, Ruth Haven, Ida Carr, Daniel Grant.

ABOVE:

Senior class of Afton High School in 1925. Front Row: Elinor Whitson, Evelyn Sullivan Estes, Marion Carr Ryno, Helen Pierce Teed. Back Row: Irene Shapley Reiling, Fred Gibson, Harriet Strong Williams, Prof. Wm. F. Spencer, Marion Monroe Pickering, Ellery Decker, Agnes Shaw Ryno.





No. 2, now Coventry Museum

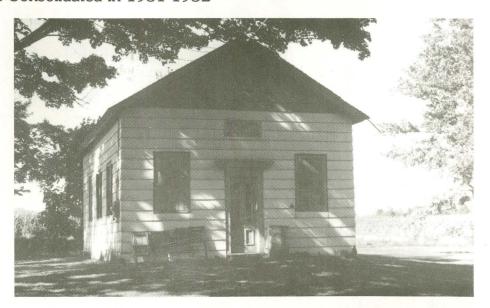


No. 4, Coventry, next to Town Hall

Scenes of 1987 rounded up by Pat Stafford showing locations of District Schools that Consolidated in 1931-1932



No. 5, across from Fair Grounds, in 1874 merged with No. 12 to become Afton Union School and Academy



No. 6 (Colesville) now Perch Pond Cemetery Association, scene of summer socials.



No. 9, Guy school, attended by Joseph Smith



No. 15, Nineveh, used for overflow primary grades until 1967



No. 10, Wilkins Settlement near Echo Lake



Austin School in Town of Sanford at Lord and Hawkins Road. Later moved to Austin Farm, now Tufano property.







Afton High School was well represented in Fair Parades, then held each September

Horsedrawn wagon float, courtesy of Harriet Carr VanValkenburg

1915 entry motor vehicle driven by Bert Lord shows Estelle Hugabone and Leslie Sackett, kneeling; Zellah Sackett and Louis Pierce, standing. Photo from Harriet Carr VanValkenburg

1930 entry from Middlebridge faces the Judges Frances Wrench and Jesse Barr.



1906 class of Lillian Kniskern Lord, first two grades of old Afton Academy.

Herkimer Estate photo

Afton Academy building: center portion built in 1875, right and left wings added as the student body increased.

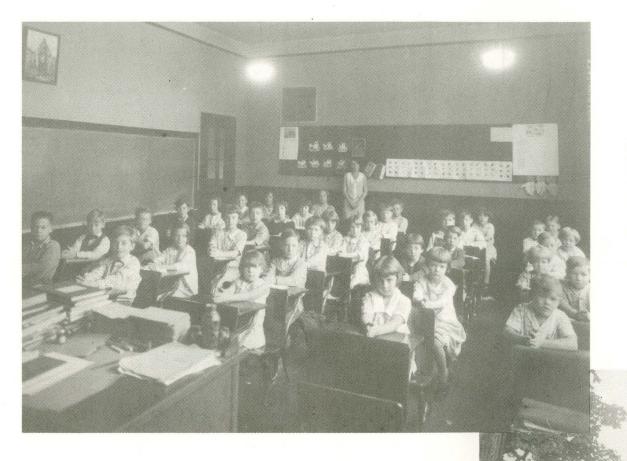
Darwin Craig collection



1925-1926 Afton High School Orchestra. Rear, standing: Gertrude Pixley, Evelyn Sullivan, Clifford Palmer, Jennie Seabury, Agnes Shaw, Ruth Gerloch; Seated, front: Louis Pierce, Wesley Hulbert, Hollis Barre, Lawrence Estes.

1925 Afton High School Faculty. Standing: Alice Wrench, Mildred Kershaw, Prof. Wm. F. Spencer, Elizabeth Lindsey, Aletta Carpenter. Seated: Jennie Seabury, Marjorie Scofield, Mildred Bisbee.

Harriet Carr VanValkenburg collection.



District School No. 15 in Nineveh, N.Y. only brick structure among the district schools; used until 1967 for overflow early primary grades. This 1931 photo shows Miss Dalton, now Mrs. Pete Lord, teacher.

Photo courtesy of Alice Gardner

House on corner of Spring and Sand Streets originally a Select School; in 1870 became Afton Academy with E.M. Rogers as Principal and Annie Green as Preceptress. Now is residence of John Walker.

The Afton Historical Society

Remembers

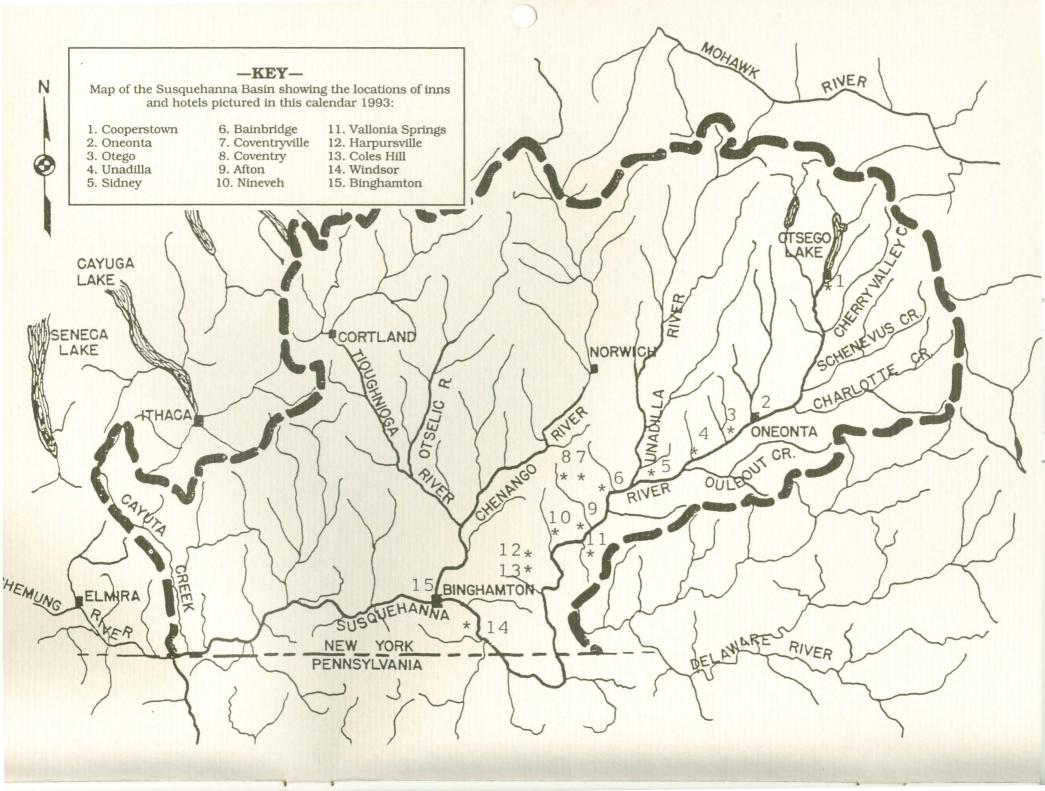
INNS AND HOTELS: In The Good Old Days...



The Afton Inn at 175 Main Street, Afton, New York enjoys a rich history of names and faces: shown here "the Sullivan House" as it looked after the rebuilding following the fire of 1877.

1904 Glass Plate Negative, Pomeroy

Calendar for 1993 –



INNS, HOTELS, AND TAVERNS OF AFTON

According to Webster's New World Dictionary of the English Language, the words hotel, inn and hostelry have approximately the same meaning: they provide food, drink and bedrooms for travelers. A tavern sells alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, but may also be an inn.

In the early days of settlement in our area, visitors arrived on foot, on horseback, or by boat on a stream. Scattered cabins were the only man-made shelter.

In the days of turnpikes and stagecoaches, small inns and hotels sprang up to accommodate the large numbers of travelers and drovers who needed overnight lodging. Meals were of uncertain quality and a guest might be awakened to receive a second or third person, complete strangers, in his bed. Fear of theft was a constant concern.

The first inn in the present Town of Afton was a log cabin built on the river bank at Bettsburgh by Asa Stowell. His second inn, a frame building, stood nearer the highway. The third stood on the site of the house of the Herbert Cross family until it was moved across the road and converted into a cheese factory about 1876 by Enos Johnston.

The oldest inn in the Village of Afton was the Kelsey Inn, established on Main Street by Heth Kelsey about 1804. The handsome building is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Black and Leona Finch.

An early drover's inn was the Farnsworth house on Caswell Street. It passed to Holleran and Klingman descendants and was lately owned by the Whitneys.

A hotel has stood on the site of the Afton Inn since about 1823, when Alpehus and Josiah Wright erected the first building there. In 1869 Erastus Sullivan became owner, rebuilding after an 1877 fire. The upper floor was the scene of many school and community entertainments. In 1898, another fire severely damaged the building

which was redesigned by George Jay much as we see it today. After another fire in 1941, Dave Daly had the hotel rebuilt with the present roofline. The hotel has gone under the name Sullivan House, Central House, Lagonda House (1892), Phelps Hotel, and Afton Inn.

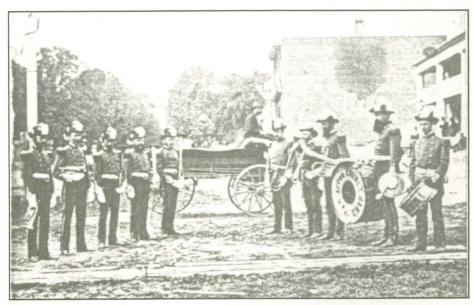
In about 1840, Hiram Long built a hotel about on the site of Horton Hardware. It later was called the Musson House and burned in 1881. An old hotel kept by Madison Slater once stood where the Afton Community Center is now located. Leonard's Hotel stood on the corner on the East Side and was frequented by Afton Fair goers.

Nathaniel M. Cook's Hotel opened on the site of his older tavern in 1878. It burned in the great fire of August 1884, and the present brick building, more recently Page's market and now the Rendezvous, was then built. It was at one time called the St. James Hotel.

The Valley House, built in 1875, also burned in 1884. It was rebuilt with an extension added in 1887. In 1929, the Valley House became the Village Hall and also housed several community organizations. In 1971 it was razed to make way for what is now the Great American Store building.

The only existing hotel in the town, outside of the village, is the Nineveh Junction Hotel which was built to accommodate railroad workers when a spur line of the D.&H. was built to connect with the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad at that point.

In the age of four daily passenger trains each way, the local hotels prospered with at least three at any one time. Increased automobile travel and prohibition in the 1920's caused the decline of the hotel business and resulted in the rise of motels away from downtown areas. Salesmen now complete an extensive route in one day and no longer need overnight accommodations as the earlier "drummers" did.



The Afton Cornet Band with the Sullivan House in right background, porch with heavy columns, before 1877. Photo Courtesy of Mildred Scott



The Phelps House as it was rebuilt after the fire of 1898.



The Central House, about 1910.

Postal Card Courtesy of Marshall G. Hill.



The Afton Inn in the age of the automobile, 1920's.



The Farnsworth homestead on Caswell Street, a stopping place for drovers moving freight by ox cart from Oxford to Deposit in the 19th century. In 20th century residence of Eva Holleran, subsequently remodeled.

Photo Courtesy of Charles Klingman, grandson of Eva Farnsworth Holleran



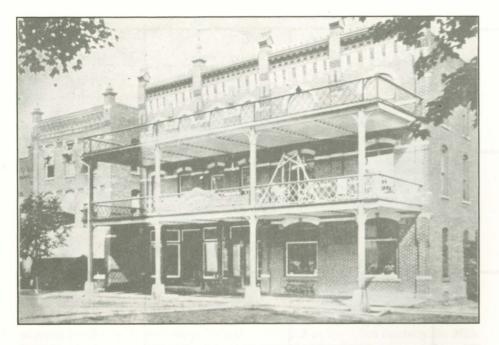
View in it's Boston Brown coat loaned by Miss Mildred Scott.



Kelsey Tavern, built in 1804, once owned by Silas Fairchild, the Clifton Cooks, now Leona Finch, Wayne and Bea Black.



Homes on left and right now property of the Nelson Cranes and the Bill Staffords.

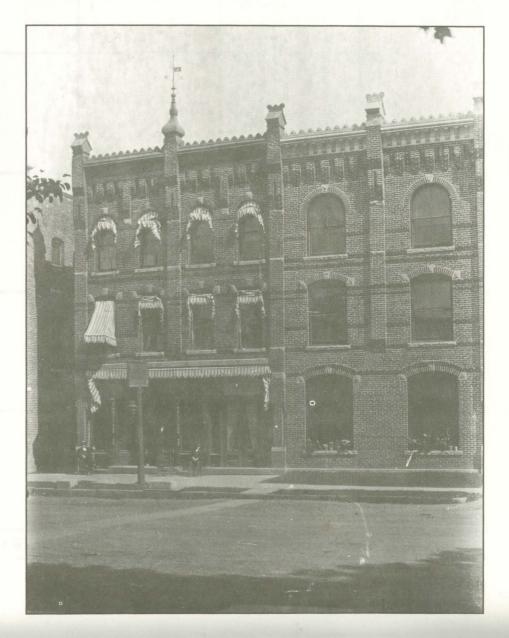


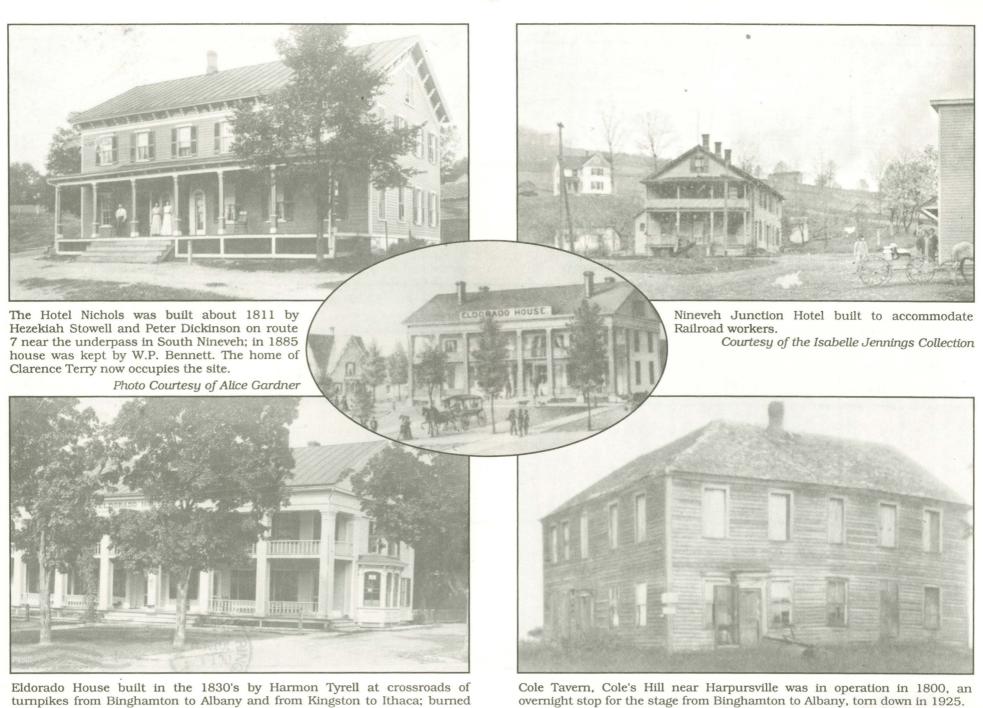


The two-story columned building is the Musson Hotel which burned in 1881. The site is now Horton Hardware. The tall structure at right is former Yale block.

Stereoscopic Photo from the Collection of Isabelle Jennings

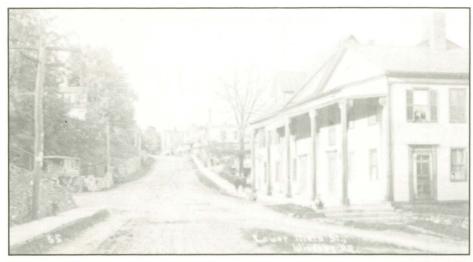
The Valley House, built in two sections, operated by W.E. Hunt. It was rebuilt after the fire of 1884, expanded in 1887, a two-story metal porch added to the front. It later became the Afton Village Hall and housed the Home Bureau, Afton Free Library, and the Afton Hose Company. Torn down in 1971, now the site of the Great American Store. At the left was the St. James Hotel, presently the Rendezvous.





September 15, 1933. Photo Courtesy of Alice Gardner

From "Famines, Fires, and Festivals," by Leone Jacobs



(Above Left) The Eagle Hotel in Windsor, built about 1830, was the scene of political rallies and parties.

(Above Right) The Spring House at Vallonia Springs, built in 1887 by James Sands, contained 20 rooms. The sulfur water brought many people seeking cures. It replaced previous building built by Peter Betts, later owned by Jerome, father of James Sands. The decorations are thought to be for the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Sands.

(Below Left) Coventry House, in the hamlet of Coventry, County Road 13 (North Road) at N.Y.S. Routes 41 and 205; now site of the home of Grace Lerwick. The Inn was kept by Luman Miles, son of Burridge Miles of Coventryville.

Courtesy of Coventry Town Museum







Miles Hotel, Coventryville, built in 1811 by Burridge Miles; upstairs was a ballroom, torn down in the 1920's. Shown in photo are Nellie Laman and pet.

Courtesy of Mildred Reynolds Munyan





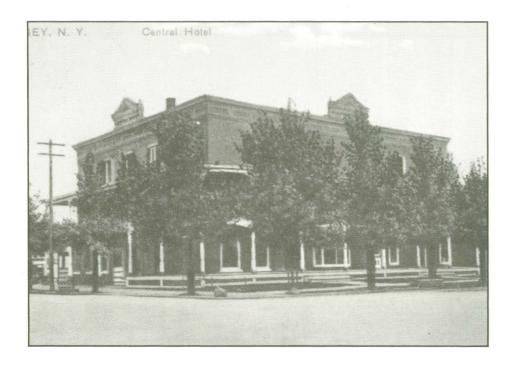
(Above Left) The Central Hotel in Bainbridge, now the Jericho Tavern, in operation since before 1800.

(Above Right) A rare view of the moving of Jericho Tavern from corner of Main and West Main Streets to its present site in Bainbridge.

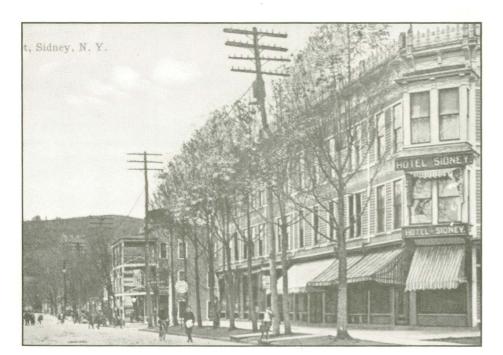
Photo Courtesy of Pat and William Stafford

(At Right) The Park Hotel in Bainbridge stood on the site of Scoville-Meno Chevrolet car agency. At the turn of the century the Park was a favorite destination for sleighing parties from the Afton area.









(Above Left) The Central Hotel stood at the corner of Main and River Streets, Sidney, New York.

(Above Right) Hotel DeCumber was at the corner of Main and Cartwright Avenue, built and opened in 1895.

(At Left) The Hotel Sidney was located on Main Street.

A fourth hotel, The Irving, is reported to have served travelers through the area.

Post Cards Courtesy of the Sidney Historical Society



The Bundy Tavern, on Route 7 in Otego, a stop on the stage route from Unadilla to Emmons. Southern travelers are said to have stayed there en route to Saratoga Springs. "Landmarks of Otsego County," Diantha Schull

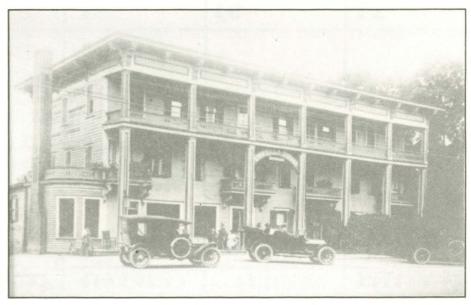


Early view of the Bishop Hotel.
"Windows on the Past in Unadilla," Unadilla Historical Society



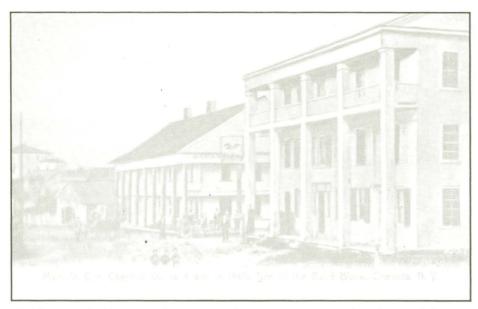
Hotel Bishop, the Brick Hotel, in Unadilla; built in the mid 19th century and has been greatly enlarged. It stands at the corner of Main and Depot Streets.

"Landmarks of Otsego County," Diantha Schull



The Unadilla House in 1878, owned by Hasbrouk; located on the Apian Way Turnpike which went from Newburg to Oxford, now a popular dining place.

"Windows on the Past in Unadilla," Unadilla Historical Society



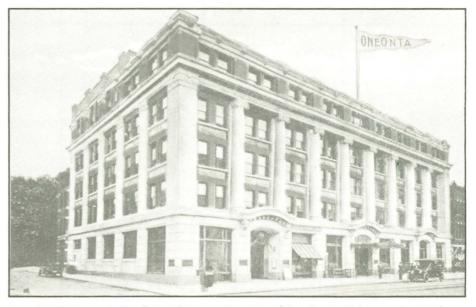
At Main and Chestnut Streets in Oneonta were two hotels. At left, the Oneonta House, begun as a tavern in 1808, demolished in 1873; The columned building was the Susquehanna House, started in 1835, enlarged in 1843, and razed in 1892.



The Central Hotel was built in 1873 by Alfred C. Lewis, considered THE hotel in Oneonta. It burned in 1910, and the present Oneonta Hotel was built on the site.

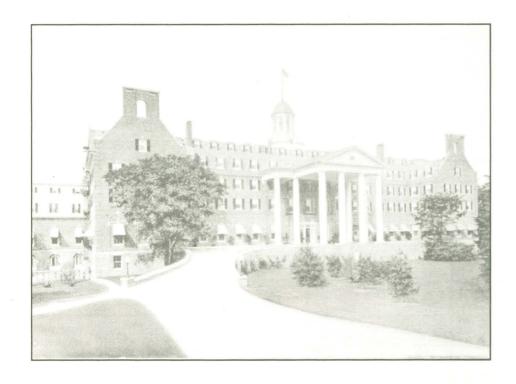


Hathaway Hotel built by Leonard Hathaway at corner of Broad and Prospect Streets, Oneonta in 1865, the year that the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad reached the city. It ceased operation in the 1930's, small one-story portion remains.



The Hotel Oneonta built in 1911 on the site of the Central; begun by Herbert T. Jennings, completed by a separate firm. A Main Street landmark at corner or Dietz Street.

"In Old Oneonta," Vol 6, Edwin R. Moore





(Above Left) The Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown has housed the Knox School for girls in winter and the A T & T School.

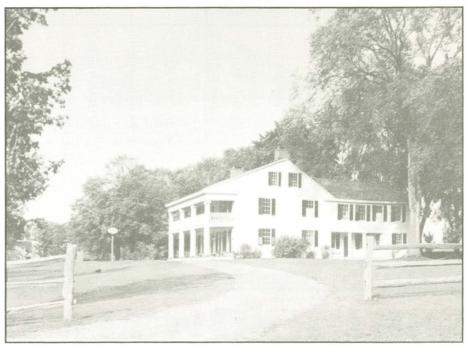
Album - Edith Bulkeley

(Above Right) The Cooper Inn built in 1813 as Willowbrook, home of Henry Phinney, of the book publisher family. In 1935 the old Hotel Fenimore next door was torn down and Willowbrook and its cottages developed into a hotel complex opened in 1936; it still receives guests.

Courtesy of Peter L. Hollis, Cooperstown, New York

(At Right) Bump Tavern, moved from Ashland, New York, now part of the Farmers' Museum; in 1844 the front roof was raised and porch and pillars added. Typical tavern of 1800.

Courtesy of Peter L. Hollis, Cooperstown, New York





"A Picture Post Card History of New York's Broome County Area," Vestal Press

The Arlington Hotel, built in 1887 at the corner of Chenango and Lewis Streets; probable architect T.I. Lacey. It was demolished in 1967 as part of urban renewal. Lacey designed Afton High School.



Hotel Bennett, built in 1881 by Abel Bennett, Binghamton's first mayor, on Washington Street. Bennett born in Bennettsville in 1818. Also called Hotel Bingham, the hotel had public baths. It was demolished in 1965 for present Metrocenter Mall.



The Afton Inn, then the Central House, in deep winter. William Finch, farmer from Long Hill Road braves the drifts with his horse and cutter. Upper left shows the fire gong on top of the store, now the Town Clerk's Office; store at right of George Decker, now law and insurance offices. Pen and ink drawing by Linda Cook DeVona from a photo in the album of her great-aunt, the late Daisy Hurd Decker.

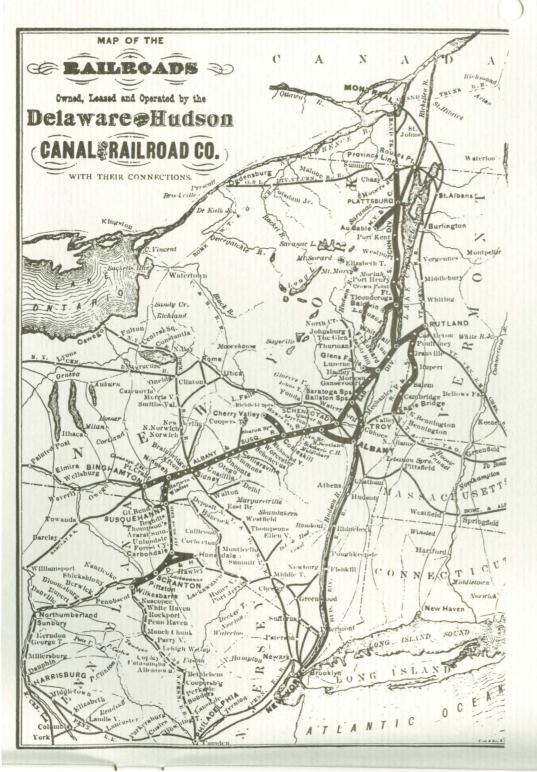
The Afton Historical Society

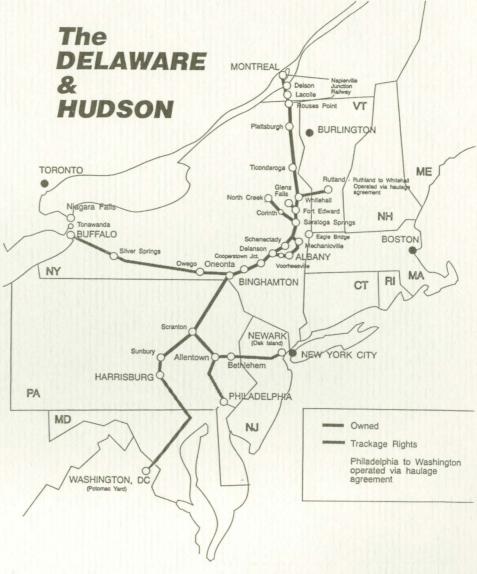
Remembers

THE D. & H. RAILROAD In The Good Old Days . . .



- Calendar for 1994 -





Map at left shows D. & H. routes after 1870. Map at right shows current routes in 1993.

The Delaware & Hudson Railroad

The story of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad is really the story of two companies founded at different times. In the first case, Maurice and William Wurtz were looking for a means of marketing their Pennsylvania anthracite coal in New York City as a previously unused fuel. On Apr. 23, 1823, the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company was incorporated to open a water communication between the Delaware and Hudson rivers.

A canal was opened for business in 1828 to carry coal boats from Honesdale, Pa., on a route following the Lackawaxen, Delaware, and Neversink rivers, and Rondout Creek, ending in Kingston, N.Y. Coal was carried from the mines to Honesdale and Hawley by gravity railways. These gravity lines also had passenger service by 1877 and continued until the canal closed in 1899.

The second company was the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad. A railroad in this valley had been proposed as early as 1844 by a Mr. Keyes of Bainbridge, but it was not until Apr. 19, 1851 that the A. & S. was incorporated. Towns along the route from Albany to Binghamton were bonded to finance the project. Afton's share was \$30,000. The three Railroad Commissioners from Afton were James Poole, William W. Corbin, and Harrison R. Caswell. They kept a still-existent ledger of the sales of bonds which were in amounts of \$500.

The new railroad reached Afton from Albany on Nov. 11, 1867, after a delay during the Civil War. It reached

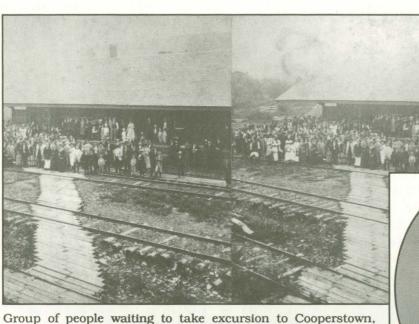
Binghamton in 1869, following the feat of digging a tunnel through Belden Hill.

By 1869, the Érie Railroad wished to gain control of the A. & S. A decisive, man-to-man battle at the tunnel on Aug. 10, 1869, ended in favor of the A.& S. It is recorded in the 1941 novel "Saratoga Trunk" by Edna Ferber and also in a movie from that book.

In 1870, the D. & H. leased the A. & S. for 150 years and later dropped the word "canal" from its title. In June, 1872, the D. & H. opened a connecting line between the Erie at Jefferson Junction, Pa., and Nineveh Junction, N. Y. This established a continuous rail line from the coal fields to Albany and eventually to Canada via northern lines purchased later.

In 1894, five passenger trains passed daily each way through Afton. Strawberries, cabbage, potatoes, hogs, butter, and mine props were some of the products shipped out of Afton. Coal from Pennsylvania and newsprint from Canada have also been important freight.

In recent years, with declining revenues, the D. & H. has come under the management of several different companies. It was recently acquired by CP Rail. New trains and routes have been added and there are some new services. In Oneonta, once the site of the largest roundhouse in the country, the shops are again repairing freight cars.

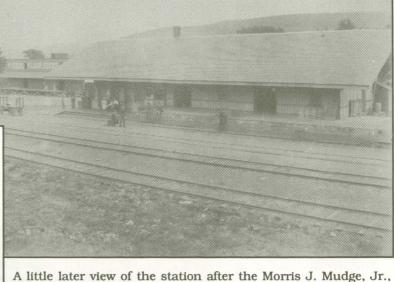


August 16, 1877. The wooden walkway to Railroad Avenue shows up well. Town Historian Card from Burt Hyde.



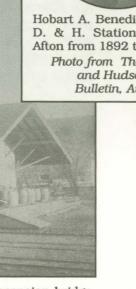
Hobart A. Benedict was the D. & H. Station Agent in Afton from 1892 to 1931.

Photo from The Delaware and Hudson Railroad Bulletin, Aug. 1, 1932

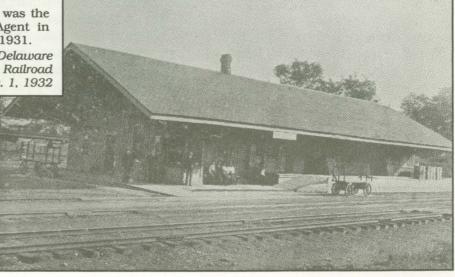


feed storage building had been built.

Photo from Bassett collection.



View of the Afton D. & H. Station before 1905 when the suspension bridge was replaced by the iron bridge. Wesley C. Handy appears in the 1902 Directory of Chenango County. He succeeded E.E. Jones as photographer in Afton. Photo from Daisy Decker album.

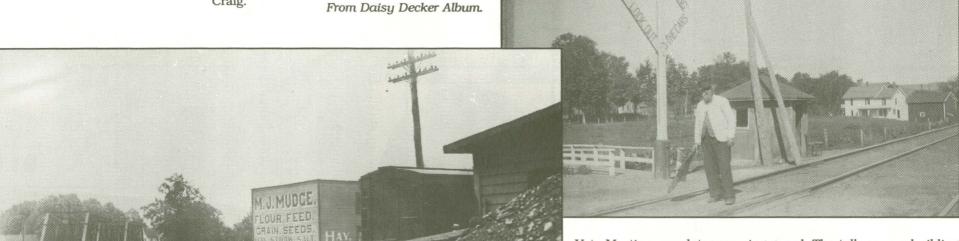


A later picture from W.C. Handy, perhaps about 1910.

Card from Charles J. Decker.

Robert Craig, crossing guard at the grade crossing by the former Agway Store. Mr. Craig was the father of Attorney Darwin Craig.

From Daisy Decker Album.

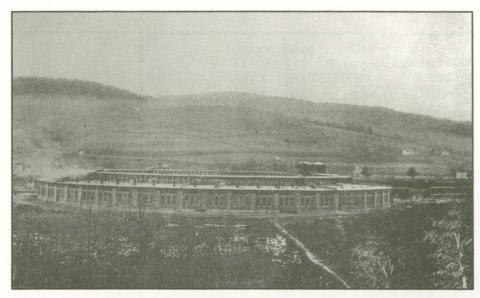


Veto Martin was a later crossing guard. The tall, narrow building was the village lockup. It was arranged for in 1893 as one of the early acts of the board of the newly incorporated Village of Afton. The board also met there in its early days. About 1910.

Photo from Town Historian.

The old grade crossing on Maple Avenue near the former Agway Store. M.J. Mudge, Jr., went into the feed business after having had a general store, bought from Joseph Decker in 1892. Date 1918.

From files of Paul Brown. Loaned by Thelma Brown.



The D. & H. roundhouse in Oneonta was completed in 1924, replacing an earlier one begun in 1870. The largest one in the world, it had 58 stalls. After the introduction of diesel engines in 1953, most of the roundhouse was razed.

Photo from Mildred Scott.

Old Route 7, now Light Road, between Nineveh and Harpursville. The D. & H. bridge and highway bridge over the creek are in the foreground with the Harpursville Station on the hill in the background.

Photo loaned by Alice Gardner.





The D. & H. Station in Oneonta replaced an earlier one. The south end was built in 1874 with an addition in 1893.

Photo from McCulley collection given by Hyman Wilcox.



The D. & H. Station at Harpursville. 1907.

Photo loaned by Alice Gardner.



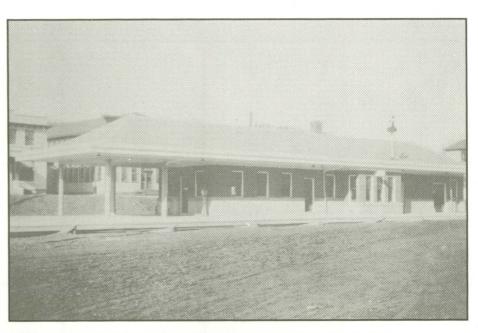
The original D. & H. Station in Bainbridge, built in 1867. All the old stations had wide overhangs to protect passengers and freight from the weather.

Photo from the Bassett collection.



The original Union Station in Sidney, which served both the D. & H. and the $N.Y.O.\ \&\ W.$ The latter reached Sidney in 1870-71.

Photo from the McCulley collection given by Hyman Wilcox.



The new D. & H. Station in Bainbridge, opened Oct. 27, 1915. It replaced an earlier one.

Photo loaned by Joyce and Fred Neidlinger of Bainbridge.



200d only when stamped and sold by an Agent holding writte "
authority as prescribed by law, for one continuous passage

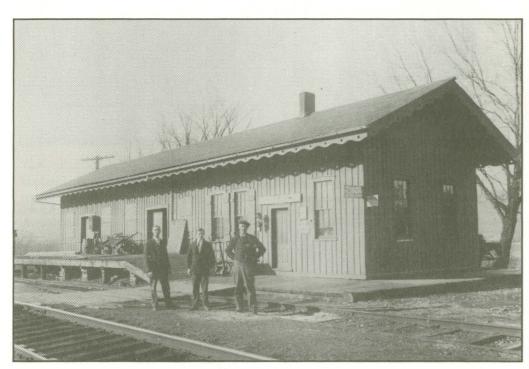
BAINBRIDGE to SIDNEY

To be begun on the day of sale as indicated by stamp of authorized Agent on back hereof, or before midnight of the following day. Liability for baggage is limited to \$150, unless greater value is stated and payment for the made therefor at time of checking.

Gen'l Pass'r Agent.

First ticket sold at the new D. & H. Station in Bainbridge on Oct. 27, 1915. Purchased by C.W. Ireland whose firm did the heating and plumbing of the building.

Loaned by Joyce and Fred Neidlinger of Bainbridge.



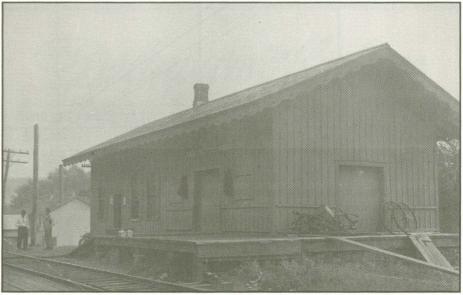
Windsor was on the Pennsylvania spur to Jefferson Junction. The station was built in 1871-72. Spencer Courtright stands on the right.

Photo loaned by Hyman Wilcox.



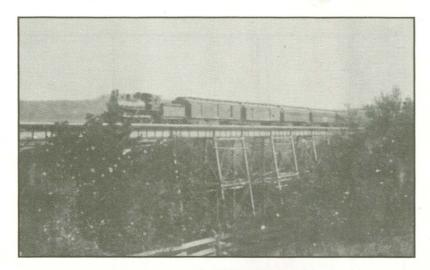
The D. & H. Canal Company opened a connecting road from Jefferson Junction on the Erie to Nineveh Junction on the Albany & Susquehanna in June, 1872, thus allowing direct shipment of coal by rail to Albany. Nineveh Junction thus became an important railroad town. The station was built in 1867.

Photo from Charles J. Decker.



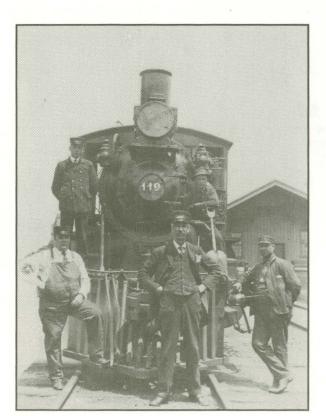
Centre Village (now Center Village) was on the Pennsylvania spur to Jefferson Junction on the Erie R.R. The station was built in 1871-72.

Photo loaned by Thelma Brown.



High Bridge over present Route 235 near Harpursville. Card dated 1906.

Photo loaned by Alice Gardner.



Train No. 119 with Spencer Courtright and his crew at the Nineveh Junction Station.

Photo loaned by Hyman Wilcox.

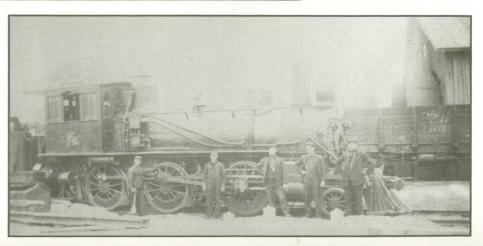


A Baldwin Sharknose No. 1216 photographed at the Colonie, N.Y. shops. This and No. 1205 were added to the D. & H. roster in October, 1974.

Photo loaned by George M. Palmetter.

The old roundhouse and train crew at Nineveh Junction, dated May 22, 1907.

Photo loaned by Hyman Wilcox.





Right-Train wreck at the Harpursville Station. 1910 date on card.

Photo loaned by Alice Gardner.



Head on collision on the D. & H. at Sidney on October 18, 1922.

Photo by H.C. Earl. Loaned by George M. Palmetier.

A pile-up of cars between Harpursville and Nineveh. Undated.

Photo loaned by Hyman Wilcox.

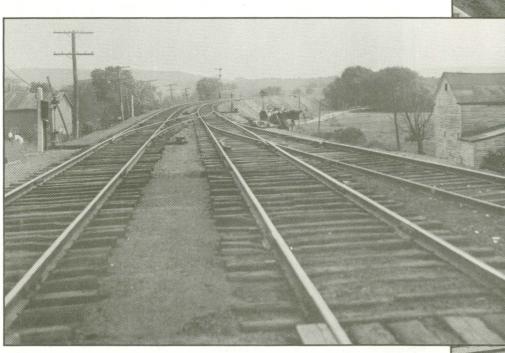


The D. & H. tunnel through Belden Hill extends 2260 feet and was built in 1867-68. A ventilating shaft was added in 1910. In August of 1869, a struggle for control of the Albany & Susquehanna R.R. by Erie interests culminated in a pitched battle just east of the tunnel. The A. & S. men won, as depicted in the novel "Saratoga Trunk" published by Edna Ferber in 1941. It was later made into a movie. Photo from Bassett collection.



Two views on stereoscope cards of a train wreck near Oneonta on October 18, 1882. Apparently part of the wooden bridge gave way.

Photo from Afton Historical Society.



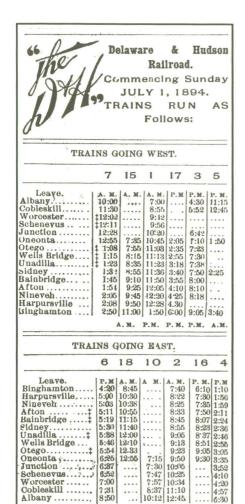
The underpass under the D. & H. tracks on Maple Avenue was built in 1932 to avoid such accidents which occurred at grade crossings.

Photo loaned by Charles J. Decker

Asa B. Pixley and Donald Shipman were killed at the grade crossing on Maple Avenue when their car was struck by a north-bound freight. Donald Shipman of Binghamton was 13 years old and was visiting the Pixley home.

From files of Paul Brown. Loaned by Thelma Brown.

Eight passengers were in this car when it was struck by a north-bound passenger train at the Scott Street crossing in Bainbridge on Oct. 5, 1913. Guy Wylie, the driver, and his son John were fatally injured. *Photo loaned by Charles J. Decker.*



The D. & H. passenger train schedule from the "Afton Enterprise" of Aug. 30, 1894. Five trains passed through Afton each day, although not all of them made local stops.

† Stop to discharge passengers.
Time tables showing local and through train service between stations on all divisions of the D. & H. systom, may be obtained at all D. & H. ticket offices.

Trains 5, 8 and 6 run daily.

P.M. P.M A.M P.M P.M P.M

Lewis Fredenburg seeing an older couple off on the train. Card was not postmarked but has message from Sister Georgia. December, 1913.

From Lew Fredenburg album given by Mildred Merrell.

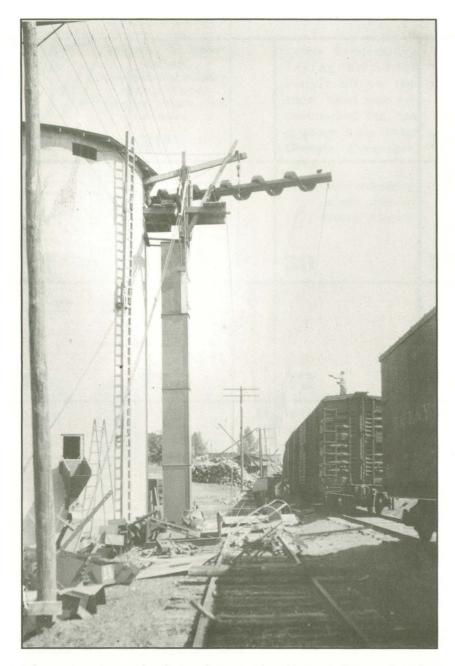


Special hop-picker's ticket issued by Del. & Hudson Canal Co., Susquehanna Division. The A. & S. was leased "in perpetuity" by the D. & H. on Feb. 24, 1870.



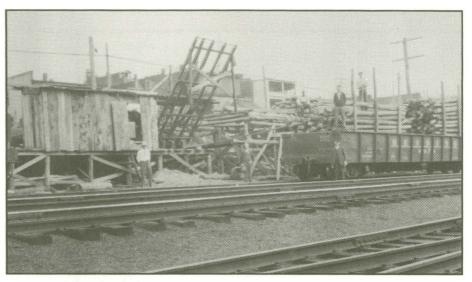


The telegraph office of the Harpursville Station. Unknown operator. Photo loaned by Alice Gardner.



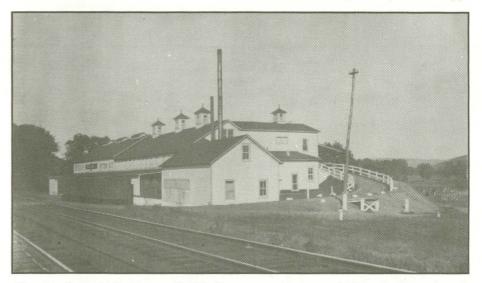
The concrete coal silo under construction at Briggs Lumber Company in 1933. Briggs sold the D. & H. "Blue Coal".

Photo from Afton Historical Society.



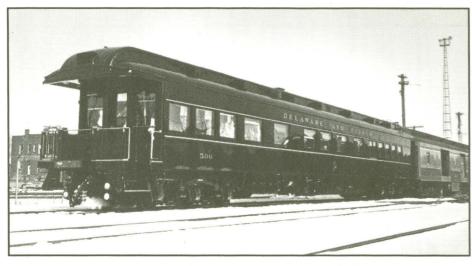
Bert Lord bought timber which he then cut into mine props with equipment located behind the business section of Afton. His wife, Lillian Kniskern Lord recorded his going out to visit woodlots in her diary of 1933.

Photo given by John Gregg.



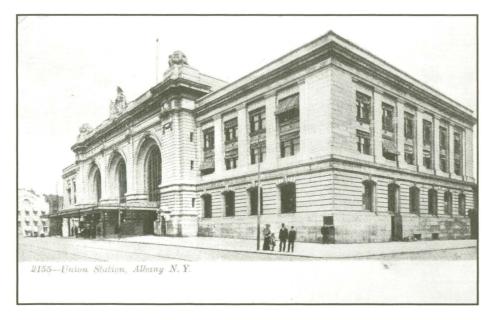
The Borden's Milk Plant off Mill Street was built in 1905 and shipped milk to New York City in refrigerated cars, one of which is on the siding in front of the building. It was taken over by the Dairymen's League in 1924. It operated until about 1965. The building burned in 1974.

Photo from Town Historian.

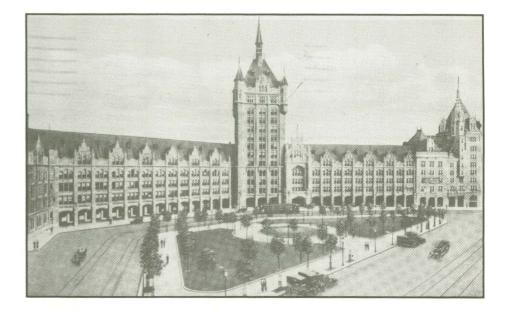


Private business car built by Pullman in 1917 for D. & H. President Leonor F. Loree. He headed the company from 1907 to 1938. The car had two state rooms, a drawing room, a dining room, and an observation end.

Photo loaned by Thelma Brown.



The Union Station in Albany was built by the New York Central Railroad in 1900-01, but also served the D. & H. *Photo loaned by Thelma Brown.*



The D. & H. General Headquarters Building on the Albany waterfront was begun in 1913. The Albany "Evening Journal" built the matching right-hand portion, the total being completed in 1918. Marcus T. Reynolds was the architect.

Photo loaned by Charles J. Decker.



Unknown members of a work gang at Nineveh Junction. In the 1940's, high school boys could get summer jobs on the section gangs.

Photo from Walter Rose.

The Nineveh Junction "Cripple Gang" which repaired trains. Fifth from left is Lewis Peters, stepson of Afton crossing guard Veto Martin. Jesse Snyder, Reuben Smith and Fred Smith on far right.

Photo from Edith Martin of Unadilla.



The Afton Historical Society

Remembers

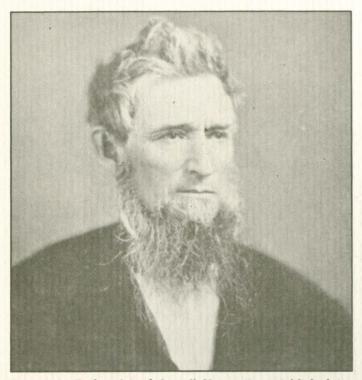
Agriculture In The Good Old Days . . .



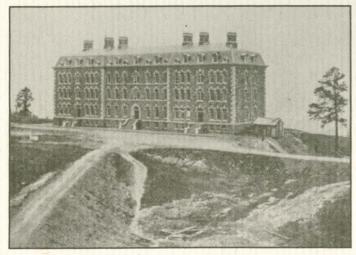
Imitation of their elders was part of the education of farm youngsters. About 1908, Evan Smith, father of Doris Smith Schultz and June Smith Bolster, went about his haying on his fathers' farm on Beech Hill in the Town of Masonville.

Photo loaned by Doris Smith Schultz

- Calendar for 1995 -



Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University, established in 1865. From a photograph by Kurtz of New York, about 1870, found in <u>Cornell University: Founders and the Founding</u> by Carl Becker, 1943.



Morrill Hall, named for Senator Justin Smith Morrill, sponsor of the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 which made possible the establishment of an agricultural college in New York. Picture from Cornell University: The Founders and the Founding, by Carl Becker, 1943.



The "Afton Aggies" chapter of the Future Farmers of America. Photo from the 1953 <u>Crimson and White.</u> Afton Central School Yearbook. Front Row: E. Reiling, R. Holdrege, D. Alysworth, S. Jamison. Second Row: R. Stevens, F. Schambach, Mr. Secrest, J. Conpropst, N. Poole, J. Lashway, R. Lashway, R. Cass, S. Weeks. Third Row: H. Scheil, L. Davis, B. Tracy, L. Alford, L. Page, K. Weeks, T. Kelly, H. Fletcher, O. Lerwick, J. Jamison, G. Dean, R. Fink, S. Pierce, L. Paddleford.

Agricultural Education

On July 2, 1862, The Morrill Land Grant Act was passed by the United States Congress. Sponsored by Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont, the law provided for each state public lands to be used as a source of income for the establishment of colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts. New York State received 989,920 acres then valued at \$1.25 per acre. With the additional donation by Ezra Cornell of a quarter million dollars and his 200 acre farm on East Hill in Ithaca, the founding of Cornell University was made possible in 1865. Today its Ithaca campus, the Extension Service, Experiment Stations, and other services continue to inform students, whether enrolled for degree courses, attending special institutes, or subscribing to one of the countless bulletins published each year.

In later years, state schools of agriculture were established at Alfred, Canton, Cobleskill, Delhi, Farmingdale and Morrisville. They have since become part of the State University system.

As early as 1910, education in agriculture was begun in local high schools. The Future Farmers of America grew out of this movement. State chapters were organized under the New York State Education Department. Philip Commings was State President in 1943. A National Chapter was established in 1950, but the Afton Chapter dates from long before then.

Agriculture: Ever Changing In Afton

The hills and valleys of Afton have been an agricultural area since the first settlers arrived in 1786 to begin clearing land for their homesteads.

Trees were an impediment to clearing cropland, so the immediate task was to get rid of them. The only tool for felling them was the hand wielded axe. For the first fields, the logs and limbs were drawn into piles to be burned. The potash from the ashes was the first cash crop. At local asheries, the crude "black salts" were refined into "pearl ash", much of which was shipped to England for use in the woolen industry.

Lumber was another source of cash income for land owners. Through much of the 19th century, log and board rafts were floated down the Delaware to Philadelphia or down the Susquehanna to Chesapeake Bay. Deposit, New York, and Port Deposit, Maryland, were places of 'deposit' of lumber.

In the 20th century, local entrepreneurs such as Bert Lord bought stands of second growth to be cut for mine props. In the 1930's, much marginal land on the hills bordering the valley was purchased by the state for reforestation. These stands of evergreens can be seen from I-88. Today, woodlots are still being harvested for building material and pulpwood.

Until the building of railroads, transportation of produce from this valley to distant markets was an expensive enterprise. We were not close enough to the Chenango Canal in the central part of the county to make the best use of it. In 1823, Mr. Godfrey of Guilford took the first butter from this area by wagon to Newburg, from where it then went by sloop to New York City. In New York it brought 12 1/2 cents per pound, while at home it brought 6 cents. Later he drove a sleigh all the way to New York where he received 16 cents, compared to 10 cents at home.

A major crop shipped from Chenango County by railroad was timothy hay which fed the many horses used to pull vehicles in New York City. Potatoes, cabbage, and strawberries were among produce loaded into boxcars at the Afton depot for shipment to out-of-town markets.

Norman Hall, C.W. Graham, and Birney Bassett all produced large amounts of strawberries. Mr. Hall alone, was expected to have a yield of 600 bushels in 1892.

George and Frank Decker introduced the growing of cabbage into the area, and until the 1940's, many of the valley farms had an acre or two of this labor intensive crop.

In the latter part of the 19th century, hop culture was important here. Chenango County was on the fringe of the hop growing center of the country which was located in Otsego County. Much of the crop, used in flavoring beer, was exported to Germany. In an 1868 directory of the county, 39 farms in the Town of Afton were listed as hop producers. In 1875, the Nickerson Brothers, located on the site of the Afton Community Center, set 70,000 hop poles.

With the development of the refrigerated railroad car, milk could be shipped to distant markets. Previously, the milk from small dairies was converted to butter and cheese, with the waste being fed to the hogs. Enos Johnston of Bettsburg had a cheese factory where he made up to 500 pounds a day in 1880.

With an expanded market due to refrigeration, creameries sprang up in nearly every rural community. Afton had two: Borden's, later Dairymen's League, and Sheffield, later Crowley's. All milk was taken to the creamery in metal cans. In 1902, there were 151 places with dairy cattle in the Town of Afton and 3 in the village. In 1994, there are fewer than 10.

Agriculture is no longer the main occupation in the Town of Afton. Many people commute to neighboring communities to work in factories or in service industries. Afton Central School is the largest employer in the town.

By Charles J. Decker, Afton Town Historian. April 1994.

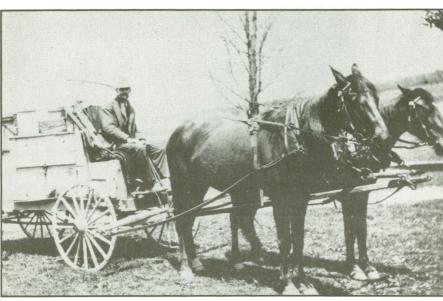


Bernett H. Decker and hired man, Lincoln Harris, cutting logs into stove-length firewood. Axes and cross-cut saws were still the means of felling trees. About 1927.

From Bernett H. Decker album.

Raymond Vergason with team and grocery wagon which had a route on Perch Pond Hill. Up into the 1940's, local grocery stores took orders and delivered to farm customers outside the village.

Photo loaned by Thelma Brown





Ernest Reynolds spreading manure by hand, 1940.

Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan

George F. Decker's delivery wagon took groceries to Coventry and other areas surrounding Afton. The driver was George W. McKee, brother-in-law of George Decker. Dated March 1912.

Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.





Starting the ice cakes along the channel with a long-handled pike pole at Afton Lake in 1926. The workman is not named. From Daisy Hurd Decker album



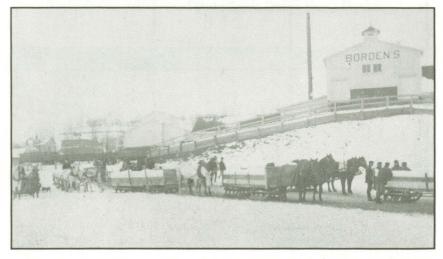
Loaded sleighs of ice leaving Afton Lake to carry the ice to ice houses. Each farmstead had an ice house where the ice, packed in sawdust inside double insulated walls, could last through the whole summer.

Postcard from Daisy Hurd Decker album



Ice harvesters at Afton Lake in 1926. The tool between the dog and the horse is an ice plow, used to score the ice for splitting into cakes. It is similar to one recently given to the Afton Museum by Tom and Peter Vail and their sister Judy Giblin.

From Daisy Hurd Decker album



Sleigh loads of ice arriving at the Borden Creamery ice house in the early 1920's. In 1916, about 450,000 tons were stored there. It was hauled by 25 teams and farmers and others were paid almost \$3,000 for cutting and hauling the ice.

Postcard from Daisy Hurd Decker album



Gathering maple sap. Pictured are Mildred and Nina Alford, their father Albert, and George Devoe. 1910.

Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan

> Wooden sap buckets brought by the Deckers from Jefferson in Schoharie County in 1866 were still in use in the 1940's.

> Photo loaned by Charles Decker





After the destruction of their sugar bush by caterpillars in the 1940's, the Decker family produced some maple syrup on a small scale. Here an evaporator is set up near the house.

Photo loaned by Charles Decker

Tapping maple trees in 1920. Pictured are Mildred Alford Reynolds Munyan, Nina Alford Hubbell, and father Albert Alford.

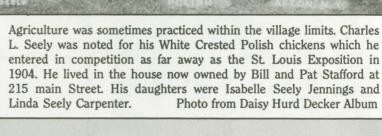
Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan

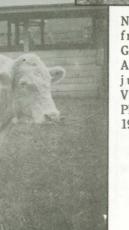




Mrs. Graham and her cow, taken at her place at the corner of Maple Avenue and Riverside Drive in Afton. The place was later owned by Mayor Ralph Thompson and now by Sadie Williams. The roofs of houses on Main Street can be seen above the D&H tracks.

Photo copied from one loaned by Norman Briggs





A handsome bovine family at the Afton Fair. Photo loaned by Charles J. Decker

Newly fresh dairy cow from the herd of George W. McKee of Afton. His farm was just below Afton Village on Route 7. Photo dated March 3, 1919.

> Photo loaned by Linda DeVona



Grandpa Fletcher and young Milton bringing home the cows. The vehicle is the carriage for a wheelbarrow seeder used to sow grass seed in a nurse crop of grain in the spring.

Photo loaned by Charles J. Decker



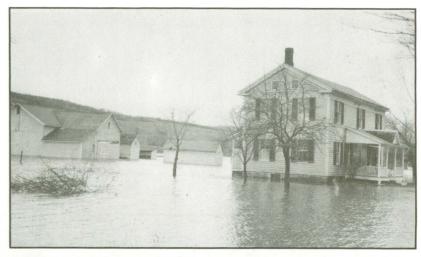
Unknown woman on a grain drill with a three-horse hook-up. Probably on the former Grover farm on Route 41 near Coventry. Earl Grover moved from there to the present Dale Grover farm in 1922.

Photo from Jeanette Grover Meeker,
Afton Historical Society



Blacksmith shop of Eli C. Makley on South Main Street in Afton. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Kane is now on the site. Mr. and Mrs. Makley, parents of Leola Camp, stand in the front. Main Street was paved to that point about 1914.

Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album



Farmlands on the East Side were inundated by flood waters in the spring of 1936. This house, just below the fairgrounds, was then owned by the Mason family. Bess operated the Red Shutters Tea Room there.

From Daisy Hurd Decker album

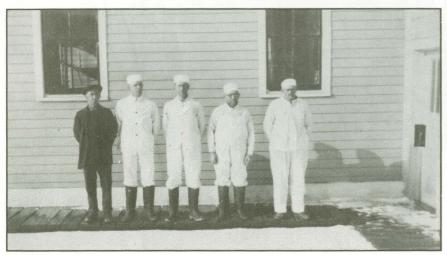


C.G. Brooks Feed Store on Mill Street in Afton. It later was owned by A.A. Mudge and Sons. The store burned in the 1970's after having been purchased by McDowell and Walker. They have since rebuilt a complex of buildings.

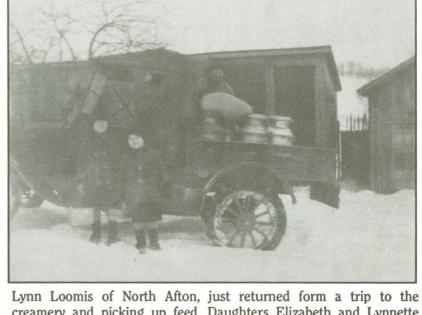
From Isabelle Jennings Collection, Afton Historical Society



Fred, Otto and John Neidlinger using a cream separator made by the American Separator Company in Bainbridge. This machine did away with putting milk in containers for the cream to rise Photo loaned by Lynnette Baciuska naturally.



The Dairymen's League Creamery across the D&H tracks on Mill Street. Men in the picture are Jesse Barre, Earl Quincy, Leslie Crane, George Hoyt and Leon Russ, perhaps not in that order. Taken before 1922. From Glenn Russ, Afton Historical Society



creamery and picking up feed. Daughters Elizabeth and Lynnette stand beside the Ford truck. Photo loaned by Lynnette Baciuska.

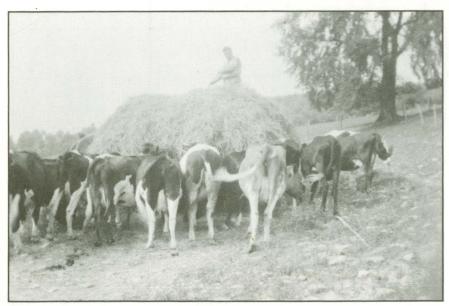


The Dairymen's League Creamery across the D&H tracks on Mill Street was originally built as a Borden's Creamery in 1905. It ceased to ship milk about 1965 and the building burned in 1974. Photo from Glenn Russ, Afton Historical Society

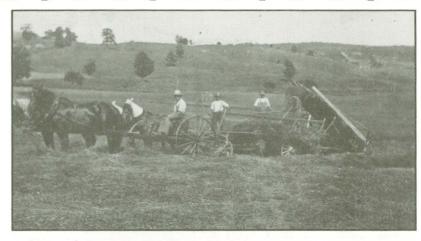


Loading hay with a hay loader on the Albert Alford farm. The hay loader eliminated much hard labor in hand-pitching to load a wagon.

Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan



Chow time on the Clayton Bolster farm on Chase Road. Dated 1950 Photo loaned by Ruth Bolster



Fred, Otto and John Neidlinger with two teams, one with apparently a side-delivery rake, and the other drawing a hay wagon with a hay loader, both great labor savers. The side-delivery rake was developed in the early 20th century and the hay loader came into use about 1893. The Neidlinger farm was on the Bainbridge/Guilford road. Fred was the grandfather of Lynnette Baciuska.

Photo loaned by Lynnette Baciuska, Dated 1916



Albert Alford with a side delivery rake, an improvement over the older dump rake. Dated 1929. Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan



Binding bundles of oats which were cut by a reaper which preceded the reaperbinder. Allen Granger, Irving Hutson, father of Ruth Bolster, and Andrew Gabriel, in 1920. Photo loaned by Ruth Bolster



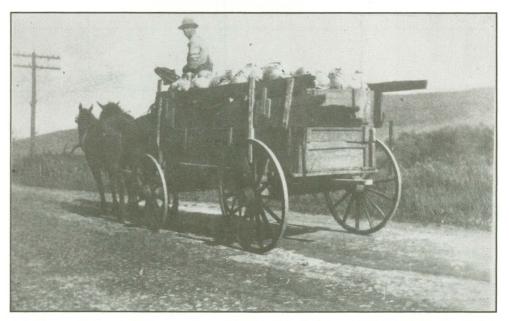
A horse treadmill set up at the farm of Griffin S. Hurd on Hurd Road in Harpursville. The rig and team of horses belonged to Dan Van Tassel and were threshing oats.

Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker, before 1900



Jerome Clark with his steam engine and threshing machine set up on South Main Street in Afton about 1904. The scene would be about opposite the old Crowley Creamery near Chuck Male's Jockeyport Livery Stable.

Photo from Pomeroy Collection glass plate, Afton Historical Society



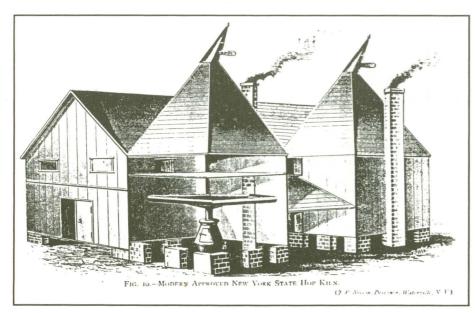
George W. McKee with a load of cabbage ready for market. It was taken to Afton and loaded on box cars for shipment to a city market.

Photo loaned by Linda DeVona



Picture postcard of hop pickers postmarked from Schenevus in 1913. The Fabric canopies protected pickers from the sun. The vines were brought on the poles to the picking boxes and rested across saw horses as at the left.

Photo loaned by Charles J. Decker



Design for a hop kiln. The hops were spread on a screen at a level above the stove. They had to be carefully tended to assure the proper degree of moisture. If too dry, they would crumble during baling. If too moist, they would mold in the bale.

Picture from Hop Culture in the United States by E. Meeker, 1883.



The hop grows as a vine. The female vines produce a cone-like fruit which is used for flavoring beer. In an 1868 directory, 39 farms in the Town of Afton were listed as growing hops.

Picture from <u>The Hop</u> by Herbert Myrick,1899



A New York Hop yard with vines trained on poles and cross strings.

Picture from The Hop by Herbert Myrick, 1899



Apple picking on the McKee farm just below Afton Village on Route 7 in the 1920's. On the ladder is George W. McKee and on the ground are his children Dorothy, Marion and George I. McKee. Linda DeVona, daughter of Marion, now lives on the place with her husband Dan and children Jimmy and Rachel.

Photo loaned by Linda DeVona

Picking up silage corn which had been cut with a corn knife. Horse drawn corn harvesters were also used until the advent of the field chopper.

Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan



John Bolster and Clayton Bolster filling silo, 1945.

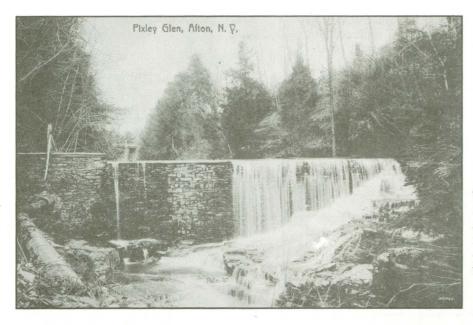
Photo loaned by Ruth Bolster





Silo filling at the Ernest Reynolds farm. Erford Hatton is standing beside the blower. Six farmers "changed works" to get in the corn harvest. About 15 men would be present at each farm for the noon meal.

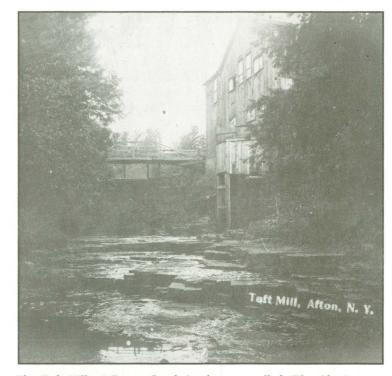
Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan



The Susquehanna had as tributaries many small streams with sites for water power. This dam above the village was one of them.

Photo loaned by Charles J. Decker

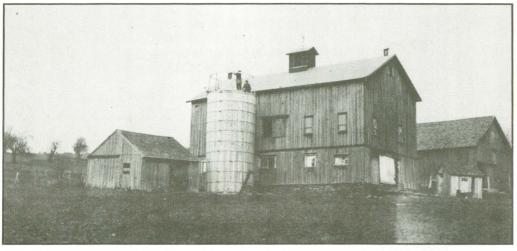




The Taft Mill on Bump Creek in the part called "The Glen" was a furniture factory where chairs were made. In 1902, during a flash flood, the building was washed away resulting in the deaths of three members of the James Cook family. Picture from Town Historian

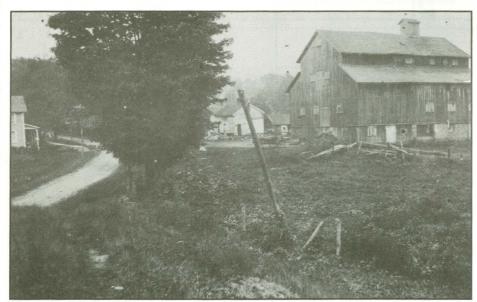
Pixley's Mill on upper Spring Street was built by Samuel Bump about 1842. It was bought by Asa Pixley in 1851 and then owned by his son Asa B. Pixley and grandson Leland Pixley. Feed, wheat and buckwheat were ground there. Later cider was pressed.

Photo from Town Historian



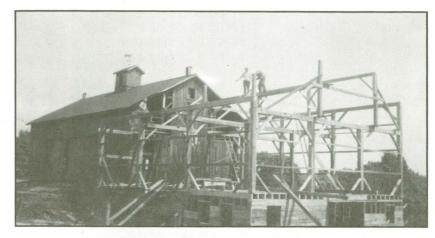
This wooden silo was erected by Charley VanWhy on the Ernest Reynolds farm in 1928. The first round silo was built in 1882 by Franklin King in Wisconsin. Previous silos were square, and did not allow even packing.

Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan



The Holmes Brothers' barn stood on their farm at the edge of Afton Village on Route 7. It burned in the early 1920's and was replaced by the one used by Shod Decker. The Afton Edge Apartments now occupy the site. At the time of this picture, the unpaved road still bore to the left, crossed under the D&H tracks, and then crossed back over them near Afton Lake.

Photo from Margaret McCulley



Barn raising for an addition on the Earnest Reynolds Farm in 1946.

Photo loaned by Mildred Reynolds Munyan



Team of oxen with unidentified man. The New York State Census for 1875 reported 72 working oxen or steers in the Town of Afton. At the same time there were 579 mature working horses. In the 1850's oxen far outnumbered horses.

Photo from glass plate in Pomeroy collection. Afton Historical Society

The Afton Historical Society

Remembers

STRUCTURES THAT ARE NO MORE



The bridge over the Susquehanna River in Afton has been one of the most often replaced structures in the town. The iron bridge, built in the winter of 1904-1905, was successor to two covered bridges and the often photographed suspension bridge. The iron bridge was replaced by the present concrete bridge in 1948.

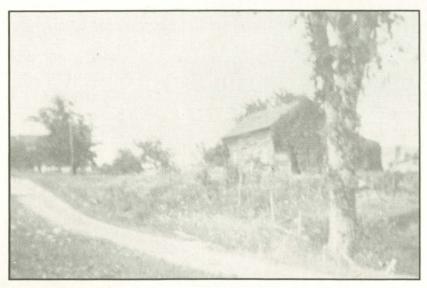
Photo from Pomeroy Collection. Afton Historical Society.

⇔ CALENDAR FOR 1996 ↔



Fire at Afton Inn, May 30, 1942.

Photo from Mildred Callen. Afton Historical Society.



William Bateman house at North Afton near the Lynn Baciuska farm. Abandoned as a dwelling, it gradually fell in.
Photo loaned by Lynnette Baciuska.

THE CHANGING LOOK OF AFTON



What now comprises the Town of Afton has existed for over 200 years. A larger area which included Afton, Bainbridge, and part of Coventry was purchased from the Indians in 1786 and apportioned among the Vermont Sufferers and others. First called Clinton and then Jericho, it became Bainbridge in 1814. What was known as South Bainbridge became a separate Town of Afton in 1857.

The first settlers cleared land and built log cabins, none of which now exist. The earliest surviving houses in the town date from the first decade of the 19th century. Among these are the old Kelsey Tavern, now the home of Wayne Black and Leona Finch; the old Bresee-Grant place, now the Royston residence; and the old tenant house on the Enos Johnston farm at Bettsburg, now owned by the Cross family.

Substantial farmhouses were replacing the log cabins in the 1820's and many of these still dot the countryside along with a few earlier ones. The Greek Revival style came into vogue in the 1830's and 1840's, followed by the Gothic and Italianate styles. The house with the mansard roof on the Cross farm at Bettsburg was built in 1876 as was the Nickerson house on the site of the Afton Community Center.

More and more of these buildings are being lost to fire, deterioration, removal and demolition. Several barns, houses, and businesses have burned in the last few years. Others have been razed, some have been moved, and others have been changed so as to be unrecognizable.

Technological change has also changed the landscape. Phone cables are now underground, the type of lighting has changed, age and widened highways have eliminated the rows of shade trees, and new bridges have replaced old ones. An old-timer, returning after a long absence, would find many of the features of the community greatly changed or gone altogether. Thanks to photographers such as A.M. North in the 19th century, W.C. Handy in the early 20th century and countless amateurs, we have a record of what Afton looked like in the past.

CAUSES OF THE LOSS OF STRUCTURES



The changing look of our community through loss of structures is caused primarily by fire, deterioration, relocation, and demolition. The house in North Afton, built by Revolutionary soldier William Bateman, fell into disuse and disintegrated. Much of the center of Afton Village has been destroyed by successive fires. The Afton Inn fire of May, 1942 was the third at an inn on that site. Afton had a completely new business section after fires in 1884 and 1888.

Some buildings have been moved. In 1985, the old Afton depot was moved off the D&H Railroad right of way to become the River Oaks and now the River Club Restaurant. The building is much altered in appearance. The original store building of Joseph Decker, burned in 1884, had once been a toll house at the bridge in Bainbridge.

Demolition is recently taking buildings to clear sites for other purposes. The Shod Decker barn, a replacement for the Holmes Brothers' barn which burned about 1922, was razed in 1991 to make way for an apartment complex. Two houses were razed in 1994 to expand the parking lot for Afton Central School. The most recent demolition was of the former Caswell blacksmith shop, recently an apartment building behind the Day and Night store.

The construction of Interstate Route 88 in the 1960's wiped out whole farmsteads and home sites and changed the landscape more than any other construction since the railroad a hundred years before. The highway left no access for some to connect divided properties. The Borge Anderson, Douglas Tait, Rufus Archer and Paul Rosenkranz buildings were wiped out entirely.

— By Charles J. Decker, Afton Town Historian. June 1995.



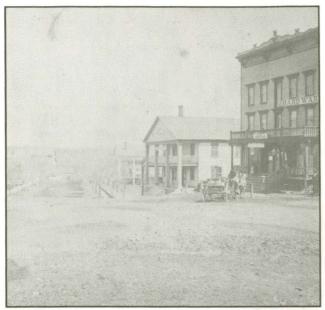
Moving of the Afton depot from the D&H right of way to its site as the River Club in 1985.

Photo from Afton Historical Society.



Demolition of the Shod Decker barn, now the site of the Afton Edge Apartments. June, 1991.

Photo from Afton Historical Society.

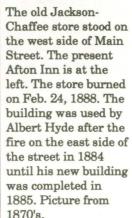


Stereoscope card from Isabelle Jennings. Afton Historical Society.



Picture from Town Historian.

All of the buildings in this picture of Main Street have burned: left to right. The Pollard barn (later Holmes Brothers) about 1922, the Pollard Mansion in 1876, the Musson House Hotel in 1881. and the Yale Block in the fire of 1884. The Yale Block stood about where Horton Hardware is now located. The Pollard barn is on the site of Afton Edge Apartments.



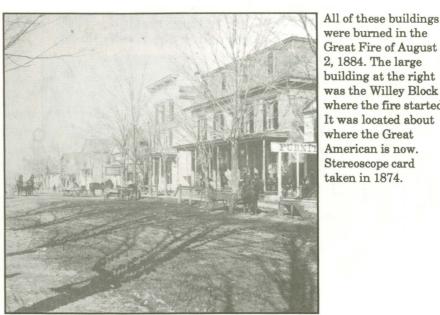


Photo from Town Historian



Stereoscope card form Isabelle Jennings. Afton Historical Society.

Almost unrecognizable except for a note on the back, this view shows the west side of Main Street from about in front of the Town Clerk's Office. The distant steeple is of the old St. Ann's Church which burned in 1891. The dark building at the left was Fleming's Wagon and Carriage Shop. Helen and Red Edson now live there.

All of these buildings

were burned in the

2, 1884. The large building at the right

was the Willey Block

where the fire started.

It was located about

where the Great

American is now.

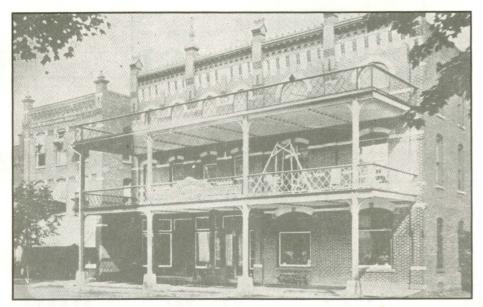
Stereoscope card

taken in 1874.



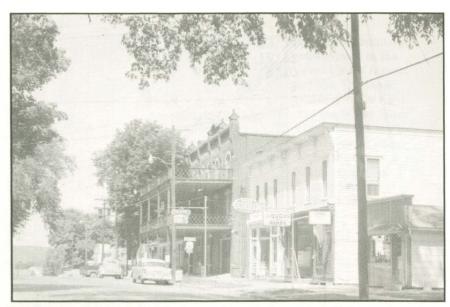
A fire severely damaged the three-block row of stores on Main Street (date not known). They housed the Partridge Bakery, a shoe store, and other businesses. The right-hand section was torn down. The Great American Store and Homeward Bound Video now occupy most of the site.

Photo from Town Historian.



The Valley House was built after the fire of 1884, the right hand portion being added later. The porches were also built on at a later date. About 1929, the building became the Village Hall and home of several organizations. It was razed in 1972.

Photo from Town Historian.



The two remaining wooden blocks continued to be used until they and the Village Hall were torn down in 1972. Signs advertise Crosley radio and television and Erma's Beauty Shop. The Liquor Store stands where the third block was torn down.

Photo from Margaret Guy. Afton Historical Society.

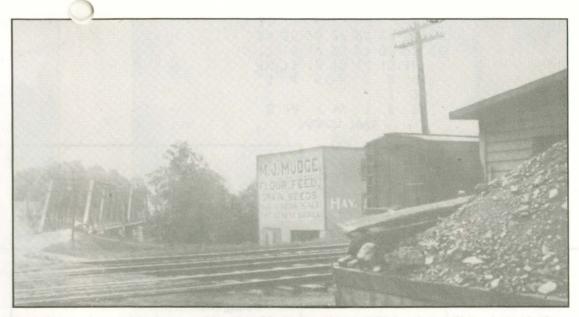


The Isabelle House Museum occupied this house for about three years as a loan from Horton Hardware. It was torn down to make room for an addition to the store done in 1987. The house had formerly been the tourist home of Percy and Olive McNayr.

Photo from Margaret Guy. Afton Historical Society.

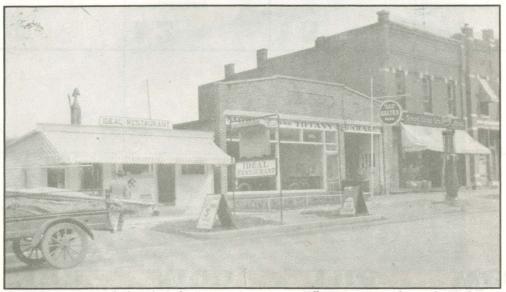


Augustus T. England had a general store on Main Street where the Post Office was once located. It is now part of the Afton Pharmacy after having been Lord and Fuller and Lord and McHugh. This warehouse was next to the tracks back of the store. It was torn down in the early 1950's. Photo from Afton Historical Society.



Everything in this picture is now gone. The original feed store of Morris J. Mudge, Jr., stood near the iron bridge, built in 1905, and replaced by the present concrete one in 1948. The grade crossing was replaced by the underpass in 1932, and all the old buildings on the Agway site burned in the Horton Hardware fire of 1993.

Photo from Thelma Brown. Afton Historical Society.



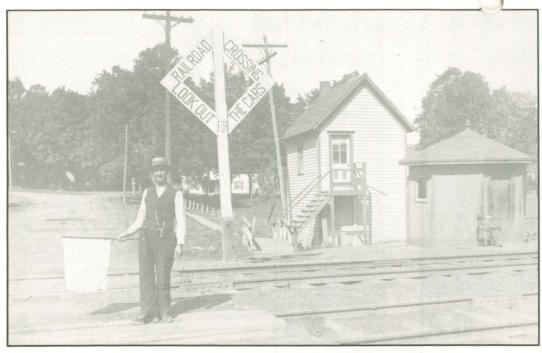
The Ideal Restaurant stood where the Dodge Insurance Agency is now. Tiffany's Garage moved to south Main Street. During World War II, , Ward Williams operated a garage there. It was later the Grand Union which burned in November, 1969. That site and the building to the right are now the National Bank and Trust Company of Afton.

Photo from Town Historian.

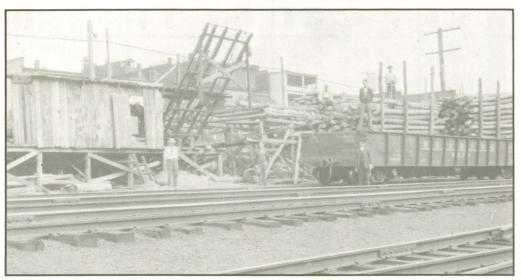


The Grand Union was destroyed by fire on Nov. 25, 1969. The National Bank and Trust Company, Afton Branch, acquired the property and expanded from the old building in 1972. The right-hand side is the third facade since the First National Bank of Afton was organized in 1920 in the red brick Marshall Hill building erected after the fire of 1884. In 1928, the new facade was made of yellow brick and manufactured stone. The 1972 model is of red brick.

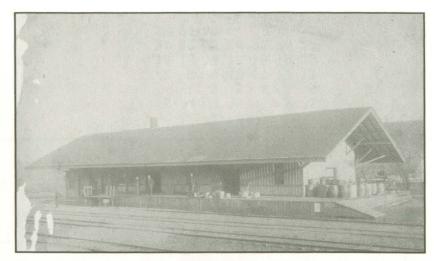
Photo from Margaret Guy. Afton Historical Society.



Vito Martin, crossing guard, stands before the watchman's shanty and the building which served as the first Village Office and the local lock-up. Part of the larger building is now on the property of Alan Hulbert on Spring Street. The shanty was moved out of town and became a playhouse for younger members of Vito Martin's family. The new part of Horton Hardware now fronts on the left. Photo from Town Historian

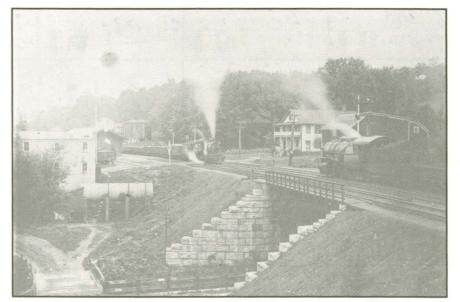


Bert Lord standing before his mine prop operation back of the Main Street business blocks in the 1930's. All the buildings in this area were removed when the parking lot was built at the time of the opening of the Harris Foodliner, now the Great American. Photo from John Gregg Collection. Afton Historical Society.



The Afton Railroad Station was built in 1869 when the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad was completed from Albany to Binghamton. It later became the Delaware & Hudson Railroad. In recent years the station was moved from its original site to the river bank and now houses the River Club Restaurant. The building has been altered and added on, so that it no longer resembles the original structure.

From Daisy Hurd Decker album.



The Nineveh Junction Hotel is about the only structure that remains where railroads were the source of activity. Station, water tanks, along with the steam trains that used them, are things of the past.

Photo loaned by Charles Decker.



This house on South Main Street was about opposite the old Briggs Lumber Company. The Alden A. Mudge house was later built on the lot to the right. The house was torn down, probably in the 1940's. It had been occupied by Corbisello, Wilbur, LeSuer, and Elander families. The wing of the Dorothy Memorial Home now is on the site.

Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.



Sunny Crest was built by James and Cornelius Nickerson about 1876 as a two family house. They were hop growers and business men. In the 1930's and 40's, Grace Church owned the property and boarded school teachers and took tourists. The Carroll Vail and Robert Ashley families were later residents. The house was razed in Sept. 1968 to make way for a proposed Victory Market. The Afton Community Center now occupies the site.

Photo loaned by Charles Decker.



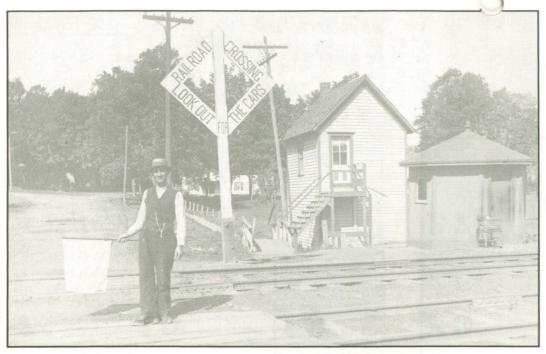
This house on the corner of Main and Mill Streets was torn down in the 1970's to make way for the present Post Office. It had been the home of Britton Whittaker and was later owned by Henry Briggs.

Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.

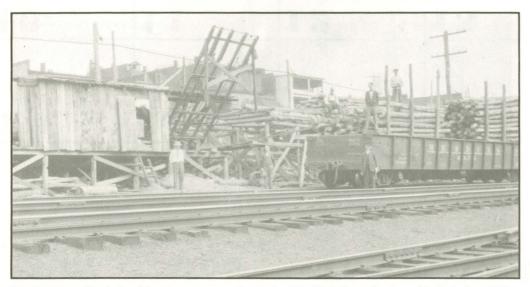


This fine house on South Main Street was built as Walnut Place in 1889 by Nelson Barton, founding editor of the Afton Enterprise. Later it was home to the Carraciolo and Latimer families. It was destroyed by fire a few years ago. Final disposition of the ruins is pending.

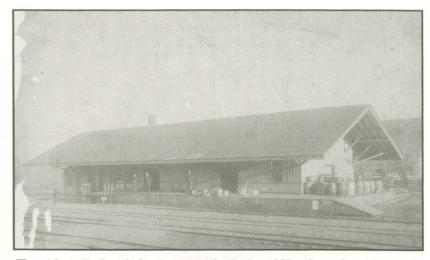
Photo loaned by Ann Clark.



Vito Martin, crossing guard, stands before the watchman's shanty and the building which served as the first Village Office and the local lock-up. Part of the larger building is now on the property of Alan Hulbert on Spring Street. The shanty was moved out of town and became a playhouse for younger members of Vito Martin's family. The new part of Horton Hardware now fronts on the left. Photo from Town Historian

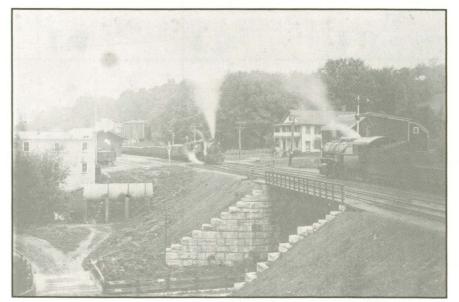


Bert Lord standing before his mine prop operation back of the Main Street business blocks in the 1930's. All the buildings in this area were removed when the parking lot was built at the time of the opening of the Harris Foodliner, now the Great American. Photo from John Gregg Collection. Afton Historical Society.



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From Daisy Hurd Decker album.



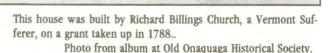
The Nineveh Junction Hotel is about the only structure that remains where railroads were the source of activity. Station, water tanks, along with the steam trains that used them, are things of the past.

Photo loaned by Charles Decker.



This house at
Middlebridge had
been the home
of Mr. and Mrs.
George Rawson.
Mrs. Rawson was
formerly Mrs.
Jerome P. Kane.
The house
burned sometime
in the 1960's.

Photo loaned by Helen Farrington Kane.



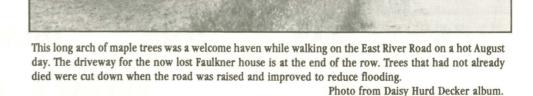
The Church homestead, was badly damaged by fire in 1994. It was finally burned completely by the Afton Hose Company. Successive owners were Victor E. Gregory, Frank Faulkner, Fritz Shultz, and John Pierce

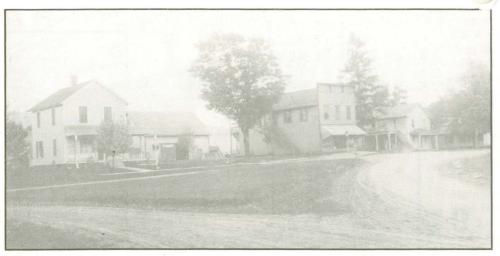
Photo by Charles Decker.



The only buildings left in the photo of Bettsburg are the mansard-roofed house built by Enos Johnston in 1876 and the white house behind it with a foundation date of 1801. The Cross Brothers' barn burned in January of 1994 but a new barn complex is being constructed.

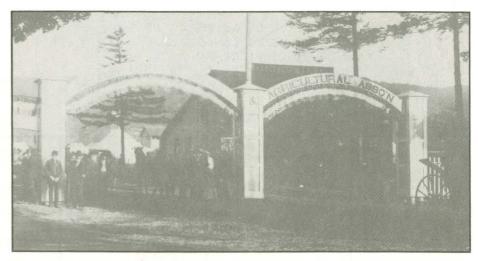
Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.





Two houses at the intersection of East Main Street and the ramp for Interstate 88 were razed in the 1960's. This one next to what was then Gregory's Store, now the Treasure Chest, was once owned by Mamie Brown, and finally by Asa F. Legg, D.V.M. The other, out of sight at the left, was the home of Jessie and Will Seeley.

Photo from Afton Town Historian



The original gate of the Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association established in 1889. The Mormon House appears behind it with the sign on the roof "Dining Hall". Both have been gone many years.

Photo from Afton Town Historian



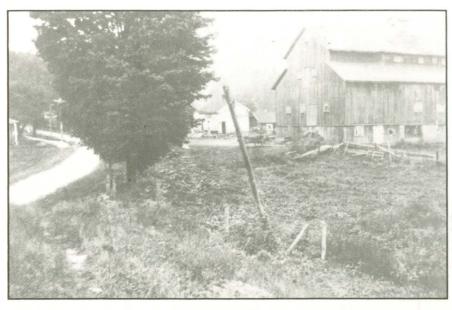
After attempts failed to interest groups in saving this house as a museum, it was sold at auction in 1947 and torn down by the purchaser. In 1827, Joseph Smith, the Mormon founder, and Emma Hale eloped to here to be married by Zechariah Tarbell, Justice of the Peace. In 1889, the Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association bought the property from Levi Johnston for use as a fairground.

Photo from Mildred Scott. Afton Historical Society.



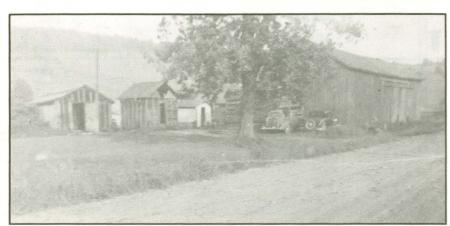
Two judge's stands were once located on the grounds of the Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association. The one at the left has recently moved to a spot near the entrance gate and placed on a new foundation. The one on the right has been gone for many years.

Photo from Harriet Van Valkenburg. Afton Historical Society.



The Pollard barn, later owned by the Holmes Brothers, burned about 1922 when struck by lightning. Rebuilt, it was later owned by Shod Decker. It was torn down to make way for the Afton Edge Apartments.

Photo from Margaret McCulley. Afton Town Historian.



The barn and outbuildings on the Grant Farrington farm on the bend of Ives Hill Road. None of these buildings remain.

Photo loaned by Helen Farrington Kane.



This handsome house, along with its barn and outbuildings, was razed in the 1960's for the right-of-way for Interstate 88. Once the Carr farm it was later the Frank Scott place, and finally the home of Esther and Rufus Archer, between Afton and Middlebridge.

Photo from Mildred Scott. Afton Historical Society.



A small barn, long ago disappeared, stood on Route 41 just south of the Page place. In the 1930's the house was occupied by Rex Tracy and his mother, then Nicholas and Lucy Tracy Johnson, Adelbert Theune, Tom Kelly, Sr., and now empty. The barn across the road on the former Austin and then Gifford farm is also gone. The farm is now owned by Bill Schuldt.

Photo from Rex Tracy. Town Historian



The Dairymen's League Creamery across the D&H tracks on Mill Street was originally built as a Borden's Creamery in 1905. It ceased to ship milk about 1965 and the building burned in 1974.

Photo from Glenn Russ. Afton Historical Society.



C.G. Brooks Feed Store on Mill Street was later owned by A.A. Mudge and Sons. The building burned in December, 1975, after having been purchased by McDowell and Walker. They have since erected a complex of buildings.

Photo from Isabelle Jennings album. Afton Historical Society.



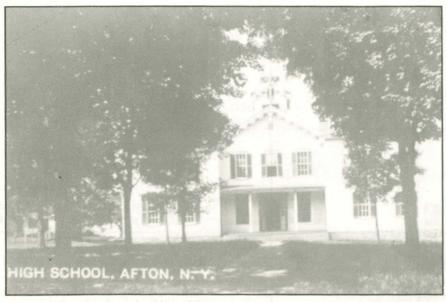
This cooper shop which manufactured butter firkins was in part of the building which housed the Sash and Blind Factory owned by J.B. Pierce. The whole complex burned in a spectacular blaze on May 5, 1902.

Photo from Town Historian.



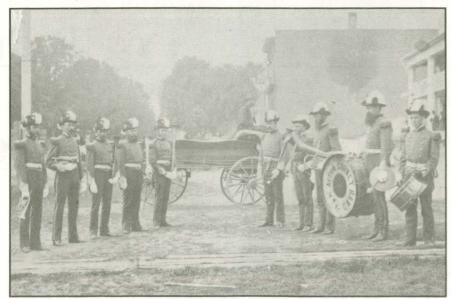
At the right is the Harness Shop of Rufus E. Smith. He erected the building in 1885. For a brief time it housed the "Afton Enterprise" on the second floor. The building was removed to make way for the construction of St. Agnes Church, which was erected in 1949.

Photo loaned by Charles Decker.



The old Afton Academy building. The center section was built in 1870, the right wing in 1872, and the left wing in 1883. The building was torn down when the new brick school was erected in 1908. Lumber from it was incorporated in the house on Caswell Street formerly occupied by Stanley LeSuer.

Photo from Mary Elizabeth Hayes Tucker. Afton Historical Society.



The Afton Cornet Band stands before the hotel built by Alpehus and Josiah Wright in 1823. It burned in 1877 when known as the Sullivan House. The Afton Inn is now on the site.

Stereoscope photo from Harriet Van Valkenburg. Afton Historical Society.



The large apartment house on Sand Street, across form the school tennis courts, burned several years ago. The ruined shell has not yet been removed.

Photo loaned by?

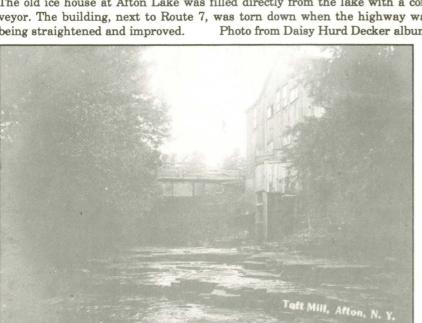


The Sullivan House burned in May, 1898 and was rebuilt much in the present form of the Afton Inn. The livery stables at left and the jewelry store at right are long gone.

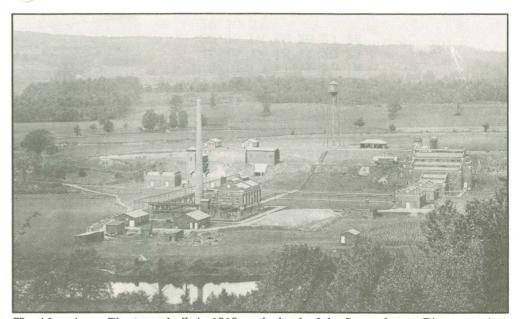
Photo from Pomeroy Collection. Afton Historical Society.



The old ice house at Afton Lake was filled directly from the lake with a conveyor. The building, next to Route 7, was torn down when the highway was being straightened and improved. Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.



The Taft Mill in the Glen by Glenwood Cemetery was swept away by a flood in July, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. James Cook and infant son lost their lives. Photo from Town Historian.



The Afton Ansco Plant was built in 1919 on the bank of the Susquehanna River opposite Afton Lake for the purpose of manufacturing nitrocellulose used in making photographic film. The smokestack was 185 feet tall. Because the plant was financially unprofitable, it was razed in the 1930's. Photo loaned by Charles Decker.

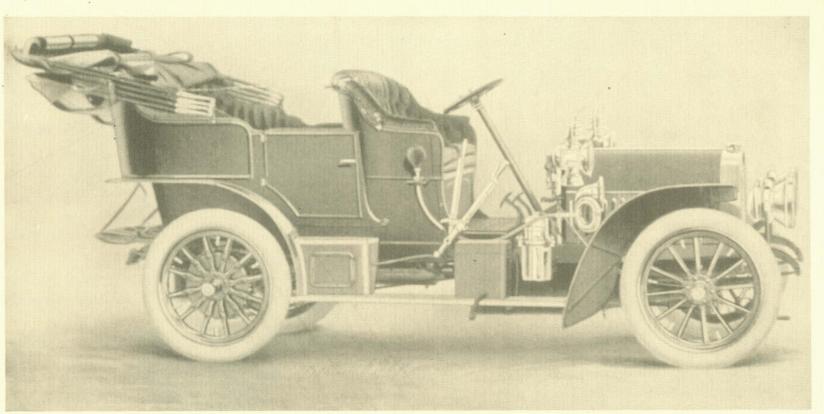


The Pixley Mill in the Glen ground grist and made cider for many years. Glenwood Cemetery is on the right hand bank of the stream. Photo from Pomeroy Collection. Afton Historical Society.

The Afton Historical Society

Remembers

CLD CARS AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES



THE 1906 LOCOMOBILE was an expensive car. The 15-20 H.P. Model cost \$3,000 and the 30-35 H.P. Model was \$5,000. The first Locomobile of 1899 was a steamer. The company continued to make cars into the 1920's.

Picture from Country Life in America, August, 1906.



Henry Ford Incorporated the Ford Motor Company in 1903. In 1913, he revolutionized the industry by adopting assembly-line production.

Picture form "The Pictorial History of the Car" by Peter Roberts, 1978.

THE AUTOMOBILE AGE



For over a century, Americans have been intrigued by the automobile. From the first "horseless carriage" to the latest model just off the production line, cars have been considered both a bane and a blessing.

A whole new set of businesses and occupations has grown out of the use of cars. The building of roads and bridges, petroleum production, tire production, gas stations, repair shops, insurance, licensing, and the manufacture of all kinds of accessories have become necessary to fill the insatiable needs of cars and their drivers.

On Sept. 19, 1906, the Centennial of the organization of Broome County was celebrated in Binghamton by an evening parade of about 80 machines. Following Signor's band wagon carrying the Packer Band of Sayre, Pa., came first the electric cars, then the steam cars. After them came the smaller gasoline cars and then the larger ones. Each was gaily decorated for the occasion. Even so, not all of the cars of the city were in the parade, as dozens of them were parked along the route.

Today, antique and vintage cars still attract much attention in parades and at many shows around the area.

Early cars were not all-weather vehicles and were put up on blocks for the winter. Even in the 1930's, some people still followed that practice. Until the period around 1914, many towns were without paved streets. Country roads were a mass of mud in the spring, a cloud of dust in the summer, and impassable in winter. The snow roller, which enhanced sleighing with horses, was no help to automobiles which needed road traction. The motorist stuck on a muddy road was the subject of many cartoons. Special clothing such as dusters and head covers protected one's best duds from road dust and mud spatters to some extent, but dust seeped in everywhere.

My Grandmother Decker used to tell of a September in about 1913 when she and my grandfather were tearing out plaster for a remodeling project during the passing by of the Afton Fair traffic. The combination of plaster dust and road dust was daunting to a meticulous housekeeper.

Today's cars and tires are more dependable than in the early days of motoring. Frank and Margaret Kniskern Faulkner once told of driving to Connecticut where they worked soon after their marriage. Frank changed and patched tires twenty times during the trip.

At the 1939 New York World's Fair, the General Motors building had a tour by moving escalator of "Highways and Horizons" which predicted the superhighways of the future. The climax was an exit into a full-size street intersection which presented the architecture, traffic regulation, and pedestrian facilities to be planned for the coming years. Motor and pedestrian traffic were at different levels.

At the same fair, "Democracity", the theme exhibit of the famed Perisphere, depicted a large city. The core, in which people did not live, was surrounded by garden apartments, suburban developments, satellite towns and countryside. Green belts and farm lands were integrated into the landscape.

Such planning for cities did not take place in many cases. The suburbs did grow, but the center cities decayed. More and more space was taken up by paved parking lots when cars won favor over public transportation. Instead of green belts, miles of neon-lit businesses replaced downtown stores. People shop and stay at motels where there is quick access to parking.

Automobile safety has greatly improved over the years. Brake systems, seat belts, air bags and other devices help reduce fatalities. Still, too many people are killed or injured each year in accidents.

Interstate highways have forever changed the landscape of our area and of the country. The absence of farm crossings and cattle underpasses has had a negative effect on the already declining number of dairy farms. The 1902 "Directory of Chenango County" lists 154 farms with dairy cows in the Town of Afton. Today there are fewer than ten.

The automobile gives a freedom to its owner by allowing him to go where he wants at any time. He does not have to rely on a printed timetable, but can zip to a town miles away to shop or seek entertainment. One result is the decline of services in small towns. One can quickly drive to a more distant supermarket or mall, leaving the local stores to struggle along or close.

Today, we would consider it a hardship to be without automobiles, but they can still be either a bane or a blessing.

by Charles J. Decker, Afton Town Historian



Unknown men in a left-hand-drive open car. Posed in a photograph studio in St. Louis, Mo., in 1910.

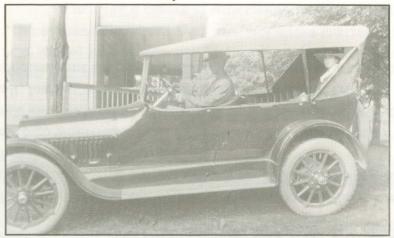


Bernett Decker in his Model T Ford. He traveled on his honeymoon in it with his wife Mildred Bisbee Decker in 1925.

Photo from Ruth Decker Braley.

Frank Decker's first car was this 1916 Buick touring car. List cost was \$1020. He built the small building next to the Decker homestead as a garage for it. Frank is at the wheel with his wife Daisy Hurd Decker in the back seat.

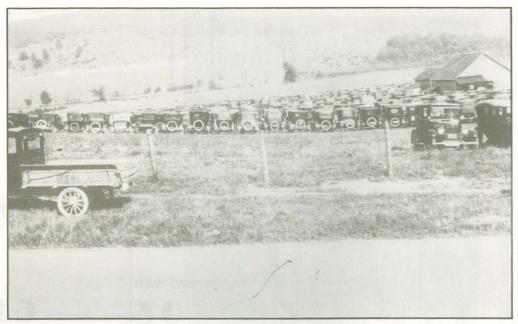
Photo from Ruth Decker Braley



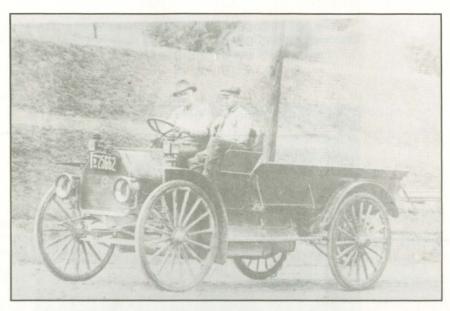


Mildred Merrell standing beside the Model T pickup of Bernett Decker. They dated when in high school and after.

Photo from Bernett Decker album.



Cars Parked at the Afton Fair in 1929. An early truck is next to the road in the foreground. Photo from Harry Horton Album. Afton Historical Society.



An early truck photographed in Susquehanna, Pa. Drivers unknown.

Photo from Charles Decker.



Truck used by Bert Lord in his mine prop and railroad tie operation in the 1930's. He spent part of his time in Albany as a legislator, first in the Assembly, then in the Senate.

Photo from Bert Lord, given by John Gregg. Afton Historical Society.



Albert Pixley beside his Model T Ford at the North End Garage next to the home of Thelma Brown in the early 1920's. Florence Brown is in the car.

Photo loaned by Thelma Brown.



A motorized bicycle owned by Claude Bartlett in East Sidney about 1909. The child beside him is Robert Bartlett, father of Barbara Olson. Robert's mother is seated on the porch with her son Bennett, beside Grandmother Van Tassell.

Photo loaned by Barbara Olson.



Bernett Decker on his motorcycle in early 1920's. It is equipped with a side-car. Photo from Bernett Decker album.



Francis Hawk, a member of the Broome County Sheriff's Department, was the Village of Afton Motorcycle officer in 1940-42.

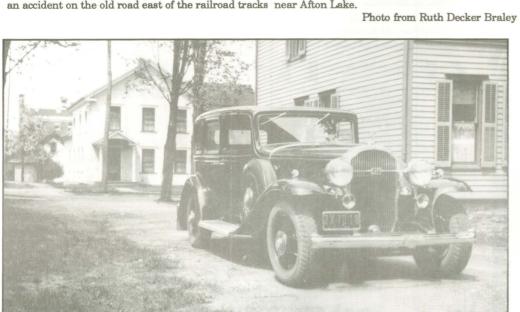
Photo loaned by Thelma Brown.



Norman Moore was a Motorcycle Officer for Afton in 1940. Photo loaned by Pat Stafford.



Brand new 1923 Buick owned by Frank Decker. This probably replaced his 1916 model with which he had an accident on the old road east of the railroad tracks near Afton Lake.



Buick owned by George Decker in 1934. He owned cars from the 1920's but never drove. His wife, Leonora Knox Decker, learned to drive in 1925, and she or Frank Decker drove for George.

From Daisy Hurd Decker album.



A 1928 Buick parked in front of the home of Harry Horton on South Main Street. It was presumably his.

Photo from Harry Horton album. Afton Historical Society.



In 1934, Frank Decker switched to Pontiacs which he drove until he purchased an Oldsmobile shortly before his death in 1959. Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.



George W. McKee and a car from about 1916. Picture is on Afton Fair Grounds where he always purchased demonstrator cars. Rear, left to right: George W. McKee, Lillian McKee, Rachel Decker, Harry Guy, Edith Guy. Front: Marion McKee, Dorothy McKee, Margaret Guy, Wanda Guy.

Photo loaned by Linda DeVona.



A 1926 Overland car of George W. McKee. His son, George I. McKee stands in front of him.

Photo loaned by Linda DeVona.



A 1928 Chevrolet owned by George W. McKee. It was purchased at the Afton Fair. The Landau bars back of the side windows were purely decorative.

Photo loaned by Linda DeVona



A Pre-war 1940 Plymouth owned by George W. McKee. Marion McKee stands beside it in a snapshot taken in 1942.

Photo loaned by Linda DeVona



Ruth Bolster and Andrew Gabriel sitting on the running board of a 1922 Model T Ford.

Photo loaned by Ruth Bolster.



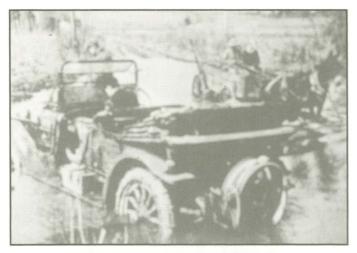
A 1953 Austin car owned by Clayton Bolster. Photo loaned by Ruth Bolster.



Ruth Bolster standing beside her 1940 Plymouth. Photo loaned by Ruth Bolster

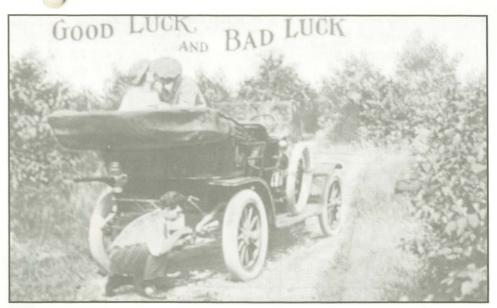


A 1960 Ford Falcon station wagon. Photo loaned by Ruth Bolster.



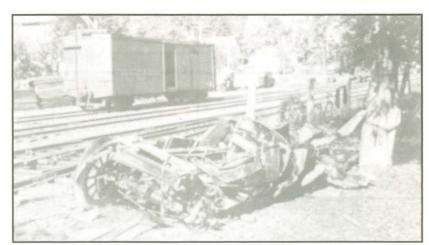
Even with tire chains, a car could easily get bogged down in the mud of pre-pavement days. Horses often came to the rescue with taunts of onlookers to "Get a horse".

Picture from "Those Wonderful Old Automobiles" by Floyd Clymer, 1953.



Stops for unexpected repairs could have their lighter moments.

Postcard dated 1914 from Town Historian



The remains of five passenger Buick touring car which was hit by a train in Bainbridge in 1913. Guy Wylie and his son John were killed. Six other passengers survived.

Photo from "Memories of Long Hill & Afton, New York" by Goldie Goodnough Van Valkenburg.



This car, about a 1960 Ford, struck the Massey-Ferguson diesel tractor driven by Charles Decker almost head-on on the bridge on Midland Road before I-88 was built. Neither driver was injured, but the steel rail of the recently built concrete bridge was bent from impact.

Photo from Charles Decker.



A 1933 Chevrolet given to Esther and Carl Hutchinson on their 50th wedding anniversary. It is the same as their first car when they were married.

Photo loaned by Esther Hutchinson.



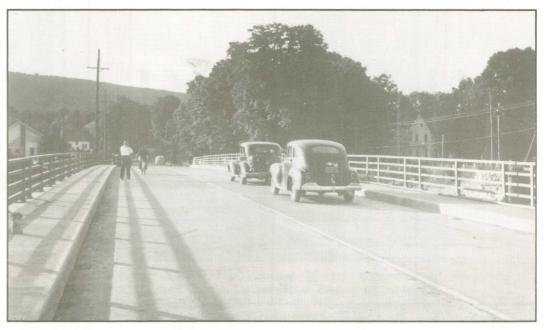
Bernett Decker talking to owner of a 1936 Buick at the end of the old grease rack. The repair garage was built about 1934.

Photo from Bernett Decker



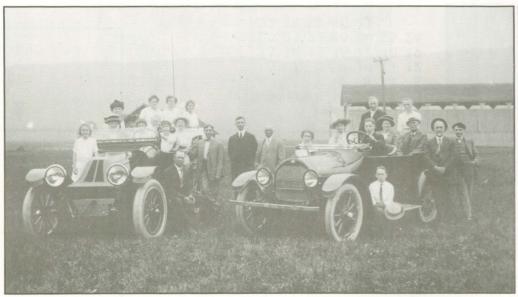
Afton's Main Street in the late 1920's. Spare tires were attached to the rear of the car.

Photo from Afton Historical Society.

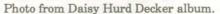


The opening of the new concrete bridge in Afton in 1948. In the first car were Mayor Ralph Thomson and Leigh Jones. In the second car were J. Harry Carr and Howard Adamy.

Photo from Gertrude Crane. Afton Historical Society.



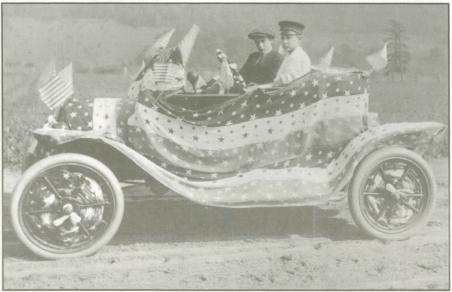
A reunion of the Church family at the Afton Fair Grounds. The car at the right may be a 1914 Buick. The other car's make is not recognized.





A float at the Afton Fair, covered with evergreens and driven by Kate Finch, accompanied by Flossie LeSuer. Before 1920.

Photo from Hazel Riley. Afton Historical Society.



A patriotically decorated float at the Afton Fair. The bunting hides the car which dates before 1920. Men are not known.

Photo from Clayton Ives. Afton Historical Society.



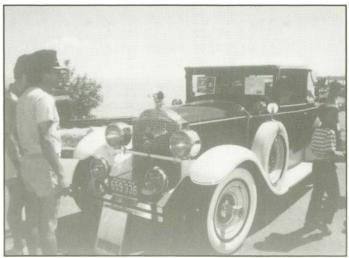
A daintily decorated float for the D.A.R. on a car driven by Ruth Haven Decker. Before 1920. Photo from Afton Historical Society.



A 1965 Volkswagen. In 1965, 385,000 "Beetles" were registered in the United States.

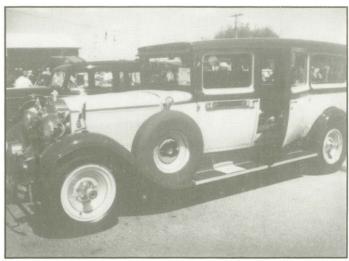
Paper House Productions greeting card.

Loaned by Charles Decker.



A Packard convertible coupe from about 1930. It was exhibited at a large antique car show at St. Ignace, Michigan about 1978.

Photo loaned by Charles Decker.



A Packard sedan from about 1930. It was exhibited at a car show in St. Ignace, Michigan in about 1978.

Photo loaned by Charles Decker.



Automobiles required good roads and streets. About 1914, the crew of Frank Lewis and Son paved Afton's Main Street. Horton Hardware can be seen in the background.

Photo from Town Historian.



Automobiles needed repairs, so there were several garages in Afton. This one, operated by Bud Pixley, was located next to the home of Thelma Brown on Main Street. Joseph Barr is standing in the doorway. Photo loaned by Thelma Brown.



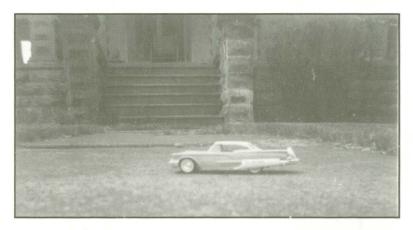
Bill and Bob Lindsey clean the street in front of the garage owned by Ward Williams. The new part of the bank now occupies the site. Photo from Afton Historical Society



Motorists needed accommodations both for their cars and themselves. The Afton Inn provided rooms and meals plus a garage for cars. Next door, Morgan Brothers provided Texaco gasoline.

Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.

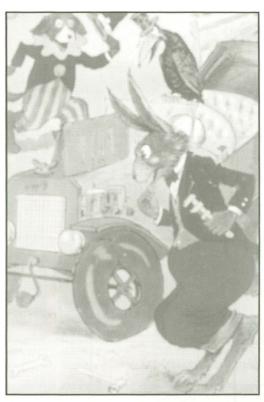
A remote control model Thunderbird car from a picture dated 1961. From a Richard Christman family album. Afton Historical Society.





Open cars required special clothing to protect the body and attire of the driver. This lady's hat protects her hair. A linen duster was often worn over best clothes to keep them clean. Card mailed from Binghamton in 1920.

Picture from Town Historian.



Cars were spoofed in children's stories such as those about Uncle Wiggily by Howard R. Garis. Uncle Wiggily's car had a carrot for a steering wheel and sausages for tires.

"Uncle Wiggily's Automobile."



Jim Scott of Nineveh standing beside a car made by the late Howard Rose. The frame was from a Kaiser-Frazer "Henry J." and other parts were from various Fords of the 1950's.

Photo loaned by Jim Scott.

The Afton Historical Society

Remembers



AMERICA'S MILITARY HERITAGE

During the years of World War II, Ward Williams, an Afton businessman, took photographs of servicemen who had returned home on leave. They are included in this framed grouping. The 52 men shown here are but a small portion of the 313 men and women whose names appeared on the final honor roll. Names of most of the men pictured have been recorded and may be seen in the Military Room at the Afton Museum. The complete Honor Roll may also be seen there.

CALENDAR FOR 1998
 ⇔

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

ROW ONE

1 . 2 HALL SMITH 3 RUSSELL BUTLER 4 5 ROGER GILMORE	6 7 KEITH WEEKS 8 JOSEPH LE SUER 9 DAVID DOUGLAS 10 CHARLES TRIPP 11
ROW TWO 1 MILLARD FLEMING 2 RANDY LEWIS 3 FRANK DALY 4 BILL MOFFIT 5 CHESTER CUYLE	2 DAVE DALEY 7 JACK JONES 8 ROBERT MORE 9 KERMIT LEWIS 10 MERLE SHAW
ROW THREE 1 GEORGE MC KEE 3 LEWIS PIERCE 3 STANLEY HOYT 4 HENRY PARKER 5 CHARLES CURTIS	EUGENE CRANE WARD MERRELL STEWART MORGAN VERDEN COOK
ROW FOUR 1 HAROLD SLATER 2 HARRY STICKLE 3 RUSSELL HOWE 4 NELSON CRANE 5 LOREN GUY	6 DAVE MORGAN 7 SAM WILMARTH 8 ALLAN HERKIMER 9 HOWARD BUTLER 10 PAUL LITTLE
ROW FIVE. 1 GEORGE JONES 2 CLYDE SWARWER 3 JACK PLUTA 4 CHARLES FOLTS 5	6 SAM LAUX 7 BILL BARR 8 BRADLEY CLEVELAND 9 FRANK SHAW 10 JERRY BRACKETT 11 FLOYD GILMORE

If you can identify any of these boys that we have not please tell any member of the Afton Historical Society.

AMERICA'S MILITARY HERITAGE

Since the 18th century, Americans have gone to battle to defend what they considered to be right. In 1775, they protested "taxation without representation". As was the case in many wars, not everyone agreed with the struggle to be independent. Many Tories had their property confiscated and returned to England or fled to Canada. Fighting from behind stone walls and trees, learned from the Indians, was a new form of warfare for the British who were used to strict ranks of soldiers. George Washington, with the help of foreigners such as Lafayette and Steuben, was able to turn a bunch of rag-tag farmers into an effective army. The efforts of dedicated statesmen brought about a new, independent nation.

In the War with the Barbary States, especially Tripoli, ships of the new nation became tired of paying tribute to the ships of Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, a practice exacted on all shipping in the Mediterranean since the 1500's. Under Thomas Jefferson, a treaty was signed with Tripoli in 1805 and later with Algiers, thus ending the practice by 1815. Our Algerine Street supposedly got its name from these Algerian pirates.

The War of 1812 had mostly to do with trade and the freedom of the seas. France and England were at war and blockaded each other's ports, seriously affecting America's newly established economic base. American seamen were "impressed" or made to serve on British ships. Much of the action took place on the Canadian border where Oliver Hazard Perry and Winfield Scott gained fame. Morgan Lewis, who had owned three Great Lots in the present Town of Afton, was also an officer in the war. New England merchants and shipbuilders largely opposed the war. Washington was burned by the British in 1814, the reason why some of our early census records no longer exist. The Battle of New Orleans took place after the war had ended, due to the slowness of communication.

The Mexican War of 1846-1848 was fought over U.S. expansion into territory belonging to Mexico. Texas had revolted and became a U.S. state in 1845, which Mexico did not recognize. The U.S. offered 25 million dollars for Mexico to sell to it New Mexico and California and cancel all claims for damages to Americans since the 1820's due to revolution, theft, and confiscation. The Rio Grande was disputed as the boundary of Texas and hostilities began there. The Treaty of Guadelupe-Hidalgo was signed on Feb. 2, 1848. Mexico lost what is now California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona, and parts of Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico.

The Civil War, 1861-1865, brought American against American in a very bloody struggle, primarily over slavery. At the Battle of Antietam, there were more casualties than in all American wars previously. Disease and lack of sanitary care of wounds were a major cause of death. The Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863, freed all slaves. The armored gunboats "Monitor" and "Merrimac" were an innovation as were armored riverboats. The tragic death of Lincoln was a detriment to postwar reconciliation. The "Copperheads", mainly in New England, opposed the war.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 had brewed for a long time over the mis-rule of Cuba by Spain. The explosion on the Battleship "Maine" on Feb. 15, 1898, prompted a declaration of war by President McKinley. The war in Cuba was brief, but Americans had invaded the Philippines after peace had been declared and remained there to quell an insurrection. Spain ceded Guam, Puerto Rica, and the Philippines to the U.S., but 20 million dollars was paid to Spain for public property in the Philippines.

The United States tried to avoid involvement in World War I, but the torpedoing of the Cunard liner "Lusitania" with the loss of 128 Americans lives, resulted in a declaration of war by President Wilson. Trench warfare, tanks, gasoline powered vehicles, aircraft, the wireless, and Germany's long distance "Big Bertha" guns were new forms of warfare. The conflict spread over every continent and resulted in a new geographical map of the world and the break-up of several empires, the results of which are still being felt, as in Serbia. The Armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918.

World War II was also entered late by the United States, only after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The U.S. came to the aid of the Allies in Europe, with the defeat of the Axis powers on VE Day, June 8, 1945. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was the American Commander. Japan surrendered after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with great destruction and loss of life. VJ Day was Sept. 2, 1945. The Honor Roll for Afton listed 313 men and women from the town who served in the war.

The Korean War was the first conflict waged under the supervision of the United Nations. The United States never declared war and a peace settlement has never been made. U.N. forces had advanced far into North Korea when Chinese troops forced them almost off the peninsula. General Charles MacArthur was discharged by President Truman over a difference in policy after a distinguished military career.

The Vietnam War was the most divisive of any war in which the U.S. has become involved. "Hell no, we won't go" was a familiar slogan of protestors. Many considered it to be a civil war that we should stay out of while others felt that it was necessary to stop the spread of Communism in Asia. The use of napalm and agent orange were very destructive to the environment and to the later health of participants.

Operation Desert Storm was a short engagement to stop the progress of Saddam Hussein who had invaded Kuwait. The control of petroleum was at stake. Fifteen young men of Afton served in this war. Scud missiles and the stealth bomber were innovations.

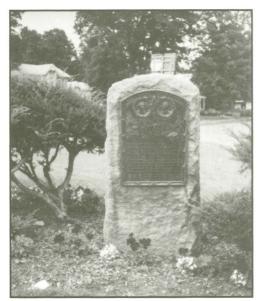
America's military men and women have also served in police actions in such places as Grenada, Panama, Haiti, Somalia, and Bosnia.

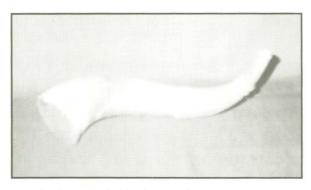
—By Charles Decker, Afton Historian

AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1775-1783



Marker at outlet of Otsego Lake in Cooperstown reads: "Here was built a dam the summer of 1779 by the soldiers under Gen. Clinton to enable them to join the forces under Gen. Sullivan at Tioga". Postcard from Charles Decker.





Powder horn carried in the American Revolution by Thomas B. Morgan, grandfather of Charlotte M. Bulkely. Owned by Afton Historical Society.

Monument at Afton triangle to commemorate the routes of the armies of General John Sullivan and General James Clinton in 1779. "An expedition against the hostile Indian Nations which checked the aggressions of the English and Indians on the frontiers of New York and Pennsylvania, extending westward the dominion of the United States. Erected by the State of New York, 1929." Photo by Charles Decker



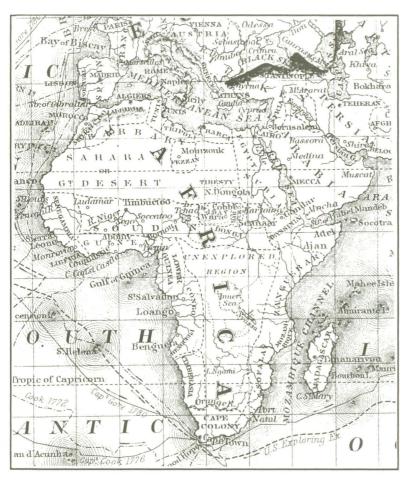
Monument at Afton triangle commemorating the soldiers of the American Revolution buried in the Town of Afton. Erected by Cunahunta Chapter, D.A.R., in 1929. Allen Herkimer, Jr. and Lucille Farnsworth Male are in colonial costume. Postcard from Daisy Hurd Decker album.

Revolutionary Soldiers buried in the Town of Afton, listed on the monument. 1929.

Aaron Emmons
Eli Seely
Zebulon Cable
Benjamin Carpenter
William Churchill
Samuel Cornwell
Jacob Hammond
William Johnston
Isaiah Landers
Levi Pratt
Seth Stone
Joseph Jennings
William Newton
Paul Nichols
Lt. William Beatman

Matthew Long
John Somes
Jeremiah Boyington
Richard Church
Capt. Enos Cornwell
Oliver Easton
Samuel Johnson
Ebenezer Landers
Martin Luther
Abijah Stevens
Silas Wright
Thaddeus Newton
James Nichols
Israel Stowell

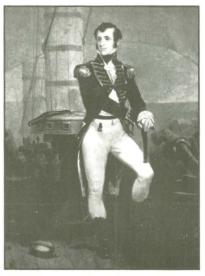
WAR WITH THE BARBARY STATES 1801-1805



Map of Africa showing the Barbary States of Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli which were attacking ships of all nations and demand-tribute and ransom. From upated 19th century "Map of the World".



Commodore William Bainbridge was born in Princeton, N.J., in 1774. He was a naval officer in the War in Tripoli and the War of 1812. He was held prisoner in Tripoli for over a year when his ship the "Philadelphia" ran aground. Picture from "Lives of Distinguished American Naval Officers", by J. Fenimore Cooper, 1846.



Stephen Decatur was born in Maryland in 1779. On Feb. 16, 1804, he took the "Intrepid" into Tripoli Harbor where he burned the captured "Philadelphia" without casualties. He later served in the War of 1812. He was killed in a duel in 1820. Picture from the World Book Encyclopedia, 1976.



William Macdonough, born in Newcastle, Del., in 1783, helped Stephen Decatur destroy the "Philadelphia" in 1804. In the War of 1812, his defeat of the British at Plattsburgh ended their plans for entering New York State. He died in 1825. Picture from "The War of 1812" by John K. Mahon, 1972.

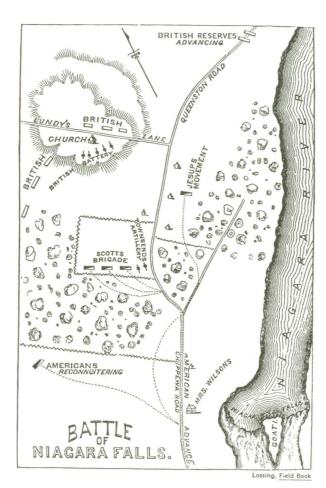
WAR OF 1812-1815



Winfield Scott became a Major General by the end of the War of 1812. He was wounded at the Battle of Lundy's Lane and became a national hero. His military career extended for 50 years through the Mexican War and the early part of the Civil War. From album of Belle Mills Young. Owned by Charles J. Decker.



Snuff box presented to Major Peter Mills by Major General Winfield Scott to replace one taken out of Mills's hand by a spent cannon ball. Owned by Charles J. Decker.



Map of the Battle of Niagara Falls showing the site of Lundy's Lane. From "The War of 1812" by John K. Mahon, 1972.



Major Peter Mills fought in the War of 1812 and was wounded at Lundy's Lane. He was the great grandfather of Daisy Hurd Decker. His home stood on the site of Trinity Memorial Church at the corner of Main and Oak Streets in Binghamton. He died Dec. 25, 1859. From the album of his daughter Belle Mills Young. Owned by Charles J. Decker.



Silver spurs worn by Major Peter Mills in the War of 1812. Owned by Charles J. Decker.

San Antonio TAYLOR'S CAMPAIGN Resaca de la Palma 3 Buena Vista (February, 1847) Gulf of Mexico Tampico SCOTT'S CAMPAIGN Mexico Cit Chapultepec (Sept., 1847 Molino del Rey (March, 1847)

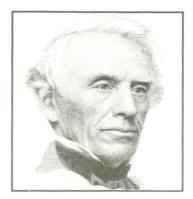
Campaigns of the Mexican War

As a result of the Mexican War, 1846-1848, the areas which are now California, Nevada, and Utah plus parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming were added to the United States. Map from World Book Encyclopedia, 1976.

Mexico Lost This Land to the United States.

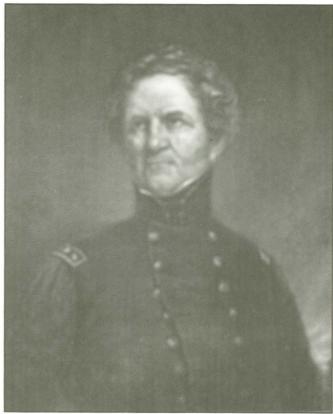


MEXICAN WAR 1846-1848



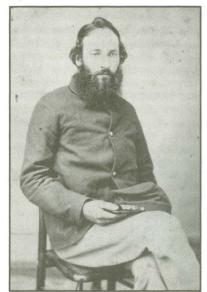


By 1846, Samuel F.B. Morse had improved his telegraph machine to its dot-dash system and telegraph lines connected New York City and Washintgon. The Mexican War was the first conflict in which almost instantaneous news could be transmitted.



Major General Winfield Scott held the highest trank in the United States Army at the time of the Mexican War. He served with distinction in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. He lived 1786-1866. From the book "The Life of General Winfield Scott", frontispiece by Edward D. Mansfield, 1948.

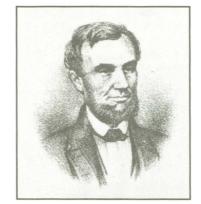
Presson R. Peck served with the 114th Regiment in Louisiana during the Civil War. At the Battle of Port Hudson in July if 1863, he was wounded almost at the same moment by two "rebel pills" or bullets. His ambulance was a "splendid barouche" requisitioned from the surrounding country. Photo from Afton Historical Society.



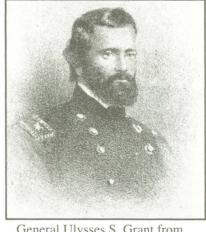
Shervin F. Estes, from Perch Pond, served in the 137th Regiment of the Union Army during the Civil War. He saw service under General William T. Sherman in the South. His diary records the day-to-day events from August, 1864 to June, 1865, when he was mustered out. Photo and diary from Erma Estes. Afton Historical Society.

CIVIL WAR 1861-1865



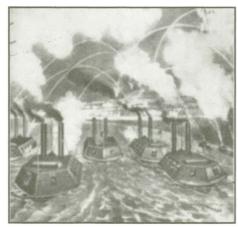


President Abraham Lincoln from album of Libbie Crawford owned by Charles Decker.



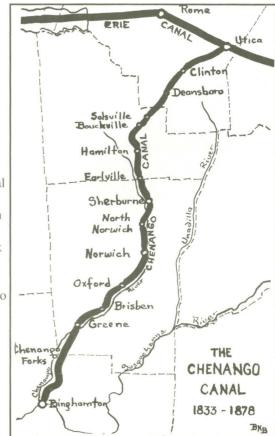
General Ulysses S. Grant from album of Libbie Crawford owned by Charles Decker.

Sarah Rosetta Wakeman posed as a male soldier, Lyons Wakeman, in the 153rd Regiment during the Civil War. She died of dysentery in Louisiana in 1864 and is buried there in Chalmette Cemetery. Her family lived on Rte. 235 near the Wakeman Cemetery. Photo from "The Uncommon Soldier" by Lauren Cook Burgess.

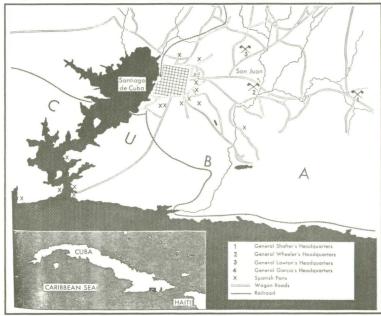


The ironclad warships "Monitor" and "Merrimac" were innovations in the Civil War. Ironclad riverboats were also used on the Mississippi. From World Book Encyclopedia, 1976.

Enlistees in the 114th Regiment from Chenango County traveled by the Chenango Canal from Norwich to Binghamton. From there, as Shervin Estes did, they took the train to Elmira, where they could make connections to Washington, D.C. Map from "The Chenango Canal" by Barry K. Beyer, 1977.



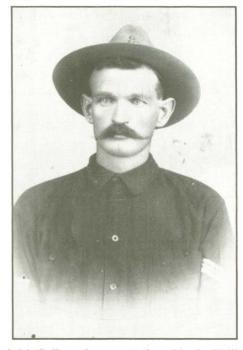
SPANISH AMERICAN WAR APRIL-AUG. 1898 & INSURRECTION IN PHILIPPINES



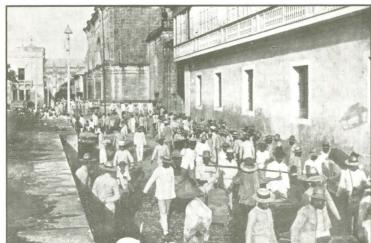
Map of Santiago de Cuba which surrendered to the Americans on July 17, 1898. San Juan is to the east. Map from World Book Encyclopedia, 1976.



Theodore Roosevelt, who had been a sickly boy, won fame as one of the Rough Riders in Cuba, especially at San Juan Hill. Picture from "Theodore Roosevelt" by William Roscoe Thayer, 1919.



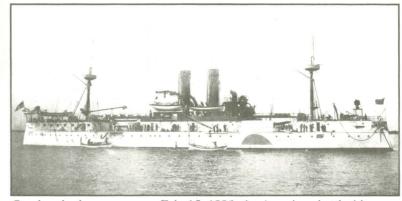
Frank McCulley who was stationed in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War. Even though the war officially ended in Aug., 1898, the insurrection in the Philippines kept troops there. Photo from Afton Historical Society.





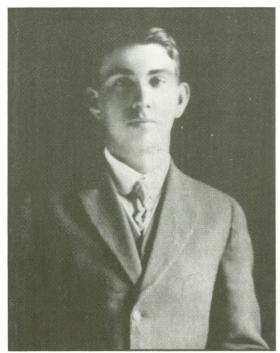
Hat worn by Frank McCulley in the Spanish American War. Afton Historical Society.

American troops entered Manila, not knowing of the peace agreement. The Philippines were a part of the settlement and troops remained for some time to put down an insurrection. The photo shows troops leaving Manila to join the insurrection. Photo from album of Frank McCully.



One hundred years ago, on Feb. 15, 1898, the American battleship "Maine" blew up in Havana harbor. This resulted in the declaration of war against Spain on Apr. 25, 1898. Picture from "Cuba's Fight for Freedom" by Henry Houghton Beck, 1898.

WORLD WAR I 1914-1918



Andrew O. Clifford enlisted in the army on Oct. 5, 1917. He was one of five Afton men who died in W.W.I. Picture from Afton Historical Society.



Willard Holmes enlisted in the Navy and went down with his ship in W.W.I. The Clifford-Holmes Post No. 923 of the American Legion was named for him and Andrew Clifford. Picture from Afton Historical Society.



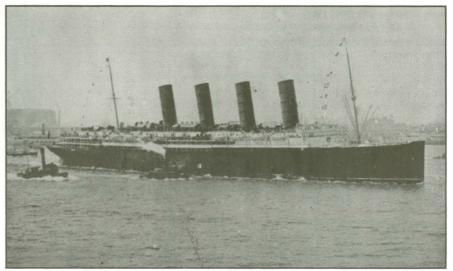
World War I helmet of Lynn Loomis of Afton. Afton Historical Society.



A British tank of the earliest type. Picture from "History of the World War" by Francis A. March, 1919.

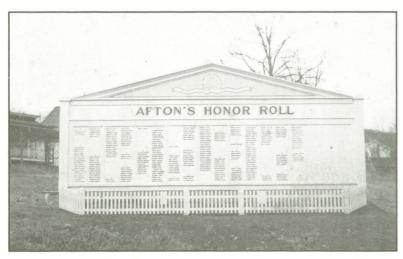


General John J. Pershing was the Commander of the American Expeditionary Force in France during World War I after long service in other areas of combat. Picture from "History of the World War" by Francis A. March, 1919.

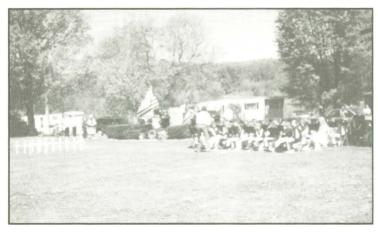


The "Lusitania", of the Cunard Line, was sunk by a German submarine on May 7, 1915, with the loss of 1,198 lives, including 128 Americans. This event had much to do with the entry of the United States into the war. Picture from "History of the World War" by Francis A. March, 1919.

WORLD WAR II 1939-1945



The Honor Roll for Afton men and women who served in World War II at the Afton triangle. William Ferguson built the frame and board and Rev. Clifford Webb did the lettering. A total of 313 names finally appeared and they are all listed on framed Honor Rolls distributed by Jenks and Swart Department store. Five women are listed and eleven men gave their lives. Photo from Afton Historical Society



Each Memorial Day, a parade proceeds down Main Street and to the bridge over the Susquehanna River where ceremonies for Navy men are held. Following that is the program at Caswell Park remembering the dead of all wars. The picture shows the crosses bearing the names of the men killed in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War. The American Legion monument is in the background.

Soldiers killed in W.W. II

Bruce E. Bosket
Paul W. Estes
Samuel Wilmarth
Burnard L. Page
William Benton Hyde
Adam Eugene Bryden
Frederick C. Davey
Homer E. Dutcher
George E. Greenman
Wilford C. Mesic
Everett Brown

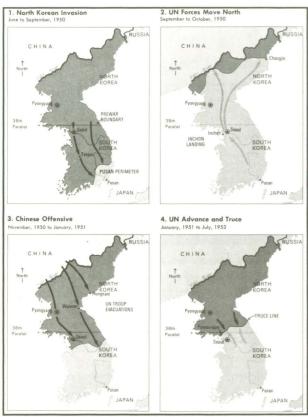


Over 6,000 men gave their lives in capturing the island of Iwo Jima from the Japanese in March, 1945. This famous photograph was taken by Joe Rosenthal and was the basis for the Marine Corps Memorial near Washington. Picture from World Book Encyclopedia, 1976, I Vol.



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was commander of the European Theater of Operation. He is pictured here in 1944 in his famous "Eisenhower Jacket". A jacket this style was recently donated to the Afton Museum by Stuart Blackwell. Picture from "Eisenhower; an American Hero". American Heritage, 1969.

THE KOREAN CONFLICT 1950-1953



Maps of the Korean War, showing four stages. This undeclared war was the first conflict to be under the jurisdiction of the United Nations. A peace settlement has never been reached. Maps from the World Book Encyclopedia, 1976.



Army helmet from the Korean War. From Dennis and Deana Barron. Afton Historical Society.

Veterans discovered to have served in Korea: An incomplete list.

Sam Costello
Clifford Cutting
Richard Page
Merle Shaw
Francis Sullivan
Angelo Lopez
Donald Simmons
Reuben Elliot
John Page
Emery Sheehy
Warren Fisk
James Guy
Lenard C. Scott

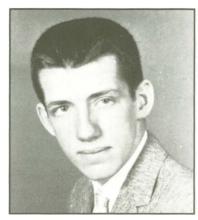
Douglas Arthur MacArthur had a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army. His service began in the Pacific in the Philippines and the Far East, then in the Russo-Japanese War, World War I, World War II, and finally the Korean War. His career was terminated when he disagreed with President Truman over war policy. Picture from "General Douglas MacArthur" by Francis Trevelyan Miller, 1945.





The Korean War has been called "The Coldest War". Here troops are preparing to cross the recently repaired bridge near the Funchilin Pass in late 1950. Photo from "In Mortal Combat: Korea, 1950-1953" by John Toland, 1991.

WAR IN VIETNAM 1959-1975



Kenneth Keith graduated from Afton Central School with the Class of 1960. He was Afton's only casualty in the Vietnam War. Photo from the 1960 "Red and White" Yearbook. Afton Hisotrical Society.

JOHN D WILLIAMS. GEORGE WYCINSKY JR. GERALD W BRASCHE. RAYMOND E FLEMING JR DAVID R AIKEN, EMANUEL FIDRUMMOND JR, ROBERT W GARTH JR, LLOYD I, GOODING, SALVATORE GUARINO PAUL CHAZEN RAY WHOLEMAN FRANK CHUBICSAK HIMMY A JOHNSON NOE MAGALLAN ANTONIO R OSUNA WILLIAM P PRESSON JR. LARRY L REYNOLDS. WILLIAM M SHETRON. DAVID R WARGO CARMELO ROMAN-AGUILAR, OLIN RITHRUSH, JOSEPH T WILLIAMS, JOHN T KLUMP STEPHEN F BURTON ALFREDO CASTANON ESTULLI CHILDERS JACK E CROUCH IR GARRY D DAVE CECIL E DORSEY. WILLIAM E EBEL. WAYNE E ELLISON. JOHN H FULCHER. JAMES E GRAHAM JR. GERALD I BANNACH ELMER I. BUCHANAN ROBERT CHAUSER BURNS W KNOWLTON JR. REAFORD A LA ROCK JOHN CLYNCH, GERALD C MCKEEN, ROBERT P MINOR, HOWARD G MORRISON, JEAN USZAKOW VERNON I, RAMEY, WILBURN ROBERSON, DAVID I ROSE, DAMEL I RUSNELL, ROBERT P SANTOR CLYDE MINIX. DWIGHT K SATTERWHITE. LARRY G SHEFFIELD. WAYNE T STRICKLAND. JUNIOR L WHITTLE STEPHEN VANDERSON, GARY A BARNARD, JOHN J BARZAN, WILLIAM R BEASLEY, PETER R BOSSMAN LARRY J CALLOW AY RONALD M CRAWN CLIFTON E CUSHMAN GARY R DOPP. PHILLIP A DUCAT ROBERT D FELLOWS. CHARLES L FORD. HERMON E FULLER JR. ARTHUR W. GREEN. DONALD M HENRICKS JR. TAMES E HOLDER. ROYD HUTTING. HOWARD W JACKSON. BRUCE L KENNEDY. ERNEST R MARTIE. TAMES E MILLER JERRY L NEWBRAND RONNIE L NOSEFF - VERNON H PARKER JR - JERRY D PILLSBURY DAVID W POLICIT TERRY I. PUNDSACK. LOUIS B RANDALL. DEAN W REITER. KARL A SCHMIDT JR. TAMES D STALLINGS. PAUL DITICE. JEFFREY PIVALGHN. ROBERT M WATERS. LARRY W WHITCOME LAWRENCE WILLIAMS IR. WALTER WILLIAMS IR. REGINALD L. CONE. NORMAN L. DUPRE. ROBERT F GRUNDMAN TAMES W HOLLIDAY - RICHARD CJOHNSON - HENRY L MOSBURG - GARY R PARSONS - MARVIN F PHILLIPS JERRY W ROSS. CHARLES W TURNER. CHARLES MICENTENO. FRANK E DZIWISZ JR. ARVEL H HALL RONALD CHORDET HAWRENCE EKINNEAR BILLY WILAWS THOMAS A LOWDEN WILLIAM R MASTERS GROVER C MATHEWS IR. GARY PIMEYER. CARROLL W POWELL. ROBERT E ROBINSON. TAMES W ROWLETT DYKE A SPILMAN - VICKEY E STANLEY JOSEPH MISTINE. GARRETT G SUTTON JR. ISTVAN SZABO CHARLES S RUNS III. JOHN W CEARY. JAMES R HANSON, DENNIS THAYWORTH, DANIEL CHONES KENNETH A KEITH. JULIO I MARTIR-TORRES. GEORGE G MOLINA. MIGUEL F NAIAR. GEORGE E O'NEILL

The name of Kenneth Keith is the first at the bottom of this section of Panel 11E of the Vietnam Memorial in Washinton. From "Offerings at the Wall", 1995.

No honor roll of Vietnam servicemen from Afton was ever compiled by the community as for those who served in World War II. Those listed here are compiled from the memory of veterans and from the list of graves marked by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Veterans known to have served in Vietnam.

Mike Crosby Charles Hubbard Dale Bolster Don Bosket Richard Moffit Ed Bosket Aldan Mulwane Kenneth Keith Sam LoPresti Fred Ford Donny Butts Donny Bush Faron Thomas Richard Page Don Morrow Irvin Anthony Skip Morrow Wayne Irons John Burnett Tom Youngs Danny Burnett Don Drake Tom Jeffers John Murwin Dennis Jeffers Vincent Marchese Pete Lockwood **Donald Crosby** Tom Robinson Leroy Halpin Richard Shaw Stuart Estes David Robinson Allen Smith Tom Bogart Daniel Casey Keith Weeks Leo Tracy Chester Cutting Carlton Cummings Charles Male

Other servicemen of the Vietnam Era.

Don Moffit Henry Wicks
Wayne Burnett Roger Shaw
Richard Morrow Bill Beardsley
Steve Willis John Thompson
John Lawrence Floyd Nabinger
Bill Stafford John Cooper



Helicopters were important in the mountainous terrain of Vietnam. They carried the wounded to hospitals and brought food, ammunition and medical supplies to troops. Picture from World Book Encyclopedia, 1976.



The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., reflects a color guard. It is 494 feet long, 10 feet high, and contains more than 58,000 names of those killed or missing. It was dedicated in 1982. Picture from "Let Us Remeber, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial".

OPERATION DESERT STORM AUG. 1990-FEB. 1991



CASEY JAY EITEL



DAN FRAIR



F.L. BLAKESLEY



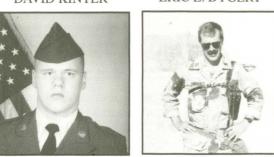
GEORGE PALMETIER



DAVID KINTER



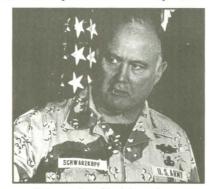
ERIC L. DYGERT



DENNIS DAILEY JEREMY POOLE



Burning oil wells made a noontime darkness in Khaffi, Saudi Arabia. Effects are still being felt by returned soldiers. Picture from "Triumph in the Desert" by Peter David, 1991.



General Norman Schwarzkopf led American troops in Operation Desert Storm. Picture from "Triumph in the Desert" by Peter David, 1991.



CHRISTOPHER LESUER



F.J. BURNS



AARON THOMAS



RONALD HITCHCOCK



GENE HATTON



DOUGLAS KNAPP



JEFFREY HUNT



J.A. CUTTING



R.B. GOODWIN

MILITARY RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Cunahunta Chapter, D.A.R.
Organized Oct. 12, 1914.
35 charter members.
Merged June 12, 1991 with Bainbridge to become Agwrondougwas-Cunahunta.

Vanderburg Post No. 12, G.A.R. Organized Apr. 5, 1878. 24 charter members. Disbanded 1928.

Vanderburg Womans Relief Corps, No. 58. Organized Feb. 10, 1894. 30 charter members.

D.U.V. Eliza Girvan Tent No. 62. Date of organization not known. Disbanded about 1940.



D.A.R. Daughters of the American Revolution G.A.R. Grand Army of the Republic D.U.V. Daughters of Union Veterans V.F.W. Veterans of Foreign Wars American Legion Post No. 923. Organized Dec. 1921. 15 charter members.

American Legion Auxiliary. Organized 1925. Charter membership not available.

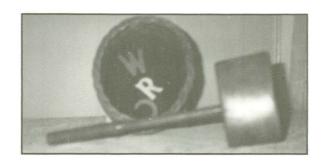
Afton Post V.F.W. 3529. Organized Sept. 26, 1987. 52 charter members.

V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary. Afton Memorial Post No. 3529. 36 charter members.





Desk and wooden cannon from old G.A.R. meeting room.



Womens Relief corps offering basket and gavel.



Monument erected by the D.U.V. in 1940 in Glenwood Cemetery at about the time that the group disbanded. Photo by Afton Historical Society.

(need photo for this caption)

The Afton Historical Society Remembers Businesses and Business People

EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET BEFORE 1884



George Hickox Hardware and C. Hill Grocer, in the Yale Block, about 1874. The Musson House Hotel burned in 1881 and the Pollard Mansion in 1876. (Stereoscope card from Isabelle Jennings. Afton Historical Society.)



The store of D.C. Willson, about on the site of the building just vacated by Sunshine Hill Florist, at just about the fork of Main and Caswell Streets. (Stereoscope card from Burt B. Hyde. Afton Historical Society.)



Scene in 1874, ten years before the fire of 1884. The first building was M.D. Howard's dwelling and furniture store. The large building housed T.L. Willey, groceries; E.M. Johnston & Co. Bank; H.G. Carr, drugs and groceries. Then Brower & Hunt's billiard parlors; Cook's Hotel; E.G. Freeman, hardware; Hyde's drug store; Decker's general store; Tarble's meat market; Hickox hardware store; C. Hill & Son, groceries. (Stereoscope card. Afton Historical Society.)

EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET - EARLY 20TH CENTURY



Intersection of Routes 7 and 41. Doolittle Brothers Garage at right and Merton Secor Garage, later Sam Perry, Romey Mertz, now Xtra Mart at left. (Picture from Town Historian.)



Horton Hardware was opened in 1906 by Clark Horton and his son Harry and continues to do business today under that name, although it is now owned by Charles Gaydorus. (Photo from Town Historian.)



Ideal Restaurant and Morgan and Tiffany Garage. Grand Union is in building later occupied by National Bank. (Picture from Town Historian.)

Probably about 1928. Jenks and Swart, now Morgan Realty, Arrowhead Store and one to right are now Treasure Chest. Old National Bank facade, then Morgan and Tiffany Garage. (Picture from Town Historian.)

Picture before 1914 as kerosene lights are still in place. First house was home of Wesley Handy, photographer and insurance agent. Later it was Ken's Barber Shop. The three wooden blocks had a fire and the right-hand one was torn down. Shiffer's, then Grow's Barber Shop was in the space where the Liquor Store is now. The Valley House Hotel, with its porches over the sidewalk, was later the Town Hall

(Picture from Town Historian.)



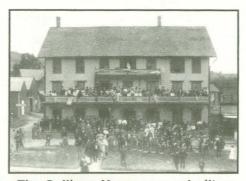


WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET BEFORE 1885



Teams and wagon in front of the post office. It was later known as the Whitman Block and housed Dr. Charles Graf's office before the building of the Medical Center. (Photo from Mary Elizabeth Hayes Tucker.

Afton Historical Society.)



The Sullivan House was rebuilt on the site of a previous building which burned in 1877. The Afton Inn now occupies the site. A livery stable is in the alley at left and a jewelry shop is at the right. (From Pomeroy glass plate negative.

Afton Historical Society.)



The Merlin Jackson store stood about where the Lou Rinker Insurance and the V.F.W. building are now. An earlier picture has the name Jackson & Chaffee. The business had a scale for weighing wagons. It burned in 1885. (Picture from Afton Historical Society.)



Joseph B. Chaffee was a merchant in partnership with Merlin Jackson. He bought out Jackson at the beginning of the Civil War. After about 7 years he moved to Binghamton. (Picture from Afton Masonic Lodge Rooms. Afton Historical Society.)

WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET - EARLY 20TH CENTURY



What is now called the Whitman Block has had a series of occupants including Eli Shay's store, the New York Bargain Store, Nick Calvi's shoe shop, Dr. Charles Graf's office, the Post Office, and now the Hair Salon. (Photo from Afton Historical Society.)



Moses Galpeer's store occupied the present Town Hall. The house next door was built by Daniel A. Carpenter after the Civil War when he operated the store. The rooms of the Afton Hose Company were upstairs. It was established in 1895, soon after the Afton water system was constructed in 1892. (Photo from Town Historian.)



The Afton Inn in the early 1930's when school textbooks were sold there to students by Marshall Hill. He also sold antiques in addition to operating the hotel. About 1933, after the centralization of the school system, books were furnished to students without any extra charge. (Photo from Town Historian.)



The row of brick business blocks on the west side of Main Street was built after fire destroyed the Jackson & Chaffee store in 1885. The marble half-moon at the top of the corner proclaims the Derby Block. The left-hand brick building was built by K.H.F. Kirtland as a hardware store and continued by his son E.W. Kirtland into the 1890's. (Picture from Town Historian.)

Afton Businesses and Business People

Afton's business hey-day was probably at about the turn of the 19th century into the 20th. The community was largely an agricultural one and the many local stores could supply most of the needs of the residents.

The Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, now the D.&H., came through from Albany to Binghamton in 1869, allowing people to take a shopping trip there to find goods not available here. They had a choice of five trains a day in each direction. Some of the Binghamton merchants advertised in the "Afton Enterprise", hoping to attract customers.

Montgomery Ward, in 1872, and Sears, Roebuck, in 1886, had begun mail order businesses and produced now collectible catalogs, also providing competition for local stores. A "Business and Professional Directory" for 1894 lists 61 businesses besides doctors and dentists, most of them on Main Street.

Because of railroad travel to Afton, the village could support three hotels. Salesmen and business people needed a place to stay. Livery stables were nearby so that rigs could be hired for local travel.

A devastating fire in 1884 destroyed a total of twenty stores and outbuildings on the east side of Main Street from the Sunshine Hill Florist Shop to the Liquor Store. The next year the former Jackson-Chaffee Store on the west side of the street burned. The merchants took pride in replacing the old wooden buildings with solid brick ones. Afton could then boast of a "state-of-the-art" business section, a source of great civic pride. Most of them are still in use.

There were always several general stores and they were really general. In 1870, H.S. Chamberlin advertised dry goods, fancy goods, wall paper, window shades, boots and shoes, crockery, and groceries.

Angell and Hyde, druggists, sold wines and liquors, perfumery and toilet articles, jewelry, solid and plated silverware, and were agents for coal, plaster, and lime. They did also have drugs and medicines.

Some businesses, such as the six blacksmith shops of 1894, disappeared with the horse-and-buggy age. Livery rigs have been replaced by personal or rented cars. Other businesses, never then imagined, now fill the yellow pages of our telephone directories.

The decline of railroad travel, accompanied by the almost universal ownership of automobiles and the building of interstate highways, has changed the character of small villages such as Afton. One can now be in Binghamton or Oneonta in about forty minutes at one of several shopping malls. Luckily, our storefronts are all occupied by some kind of business, be it service or retail oriented. No longer a predominately farming community, the businesses serve mostly a residential and bedroom clientele.

By Charles Decker, Afton Town Historian, July 1998

Due to limitation of space, many categories and pictures could not be included. Some of them may be subjects for future calendars.

VOLUME I.

The Home Sentinel,

JOHN F. SEAMAN, PUBLISHER.

Office in Willey's Block, over the Bank.

TERMS—One Dollar and Fifty cents a year in advance.

Rates of Advertising.

Business Notices in local columns, ten cents per line for each and every insertion.

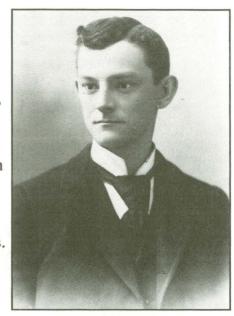
Obituaries, five cents per line.

marriages and Deaths free.

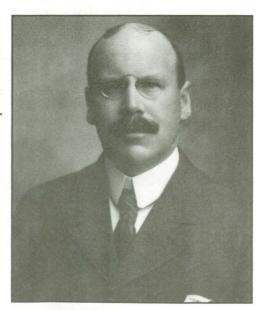
(3) No Advertisement morally or physically injurious, will be inserted in this paper at any price.

NEWSPAPERS

"The Home Sentinel" had a short run in the 1870's, at the time of the U.S. Centennial. (Newspaper from Afton Historical Society.) S. Frank Carpenter printed a small paper called "The Gem" when still a boy. Later he printed "The Weekly Press" at about the time that the "Afton Enterprise" was getting started. He later was a publisher in Carbondale, Pa. (Photo from Isabelle Jennings. Afton Historical Society.)



Nelson E. Barton founded the "Afton Enterprise" in 1880. About 1885 he built the "Enterprise Block". Successors up to 1931 were Joseph Crain, R.G. Hill. Charles Pendell. and Emerson Demeree. (Photo from Afton Historical Society.)



Howard and Edith Adamy purchased the "Afton Enterprise" from Emerson Demeree in 1931. They continued to publish until they sold the paper to Theodore Tracy. The paper ceased publication in 1969. (Picture from "Courier Magazine" Jan.-Feb. 1952.)

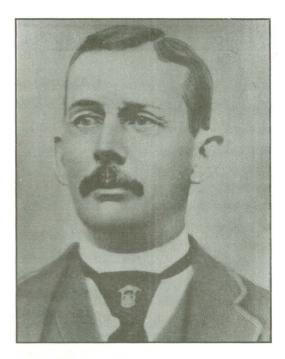




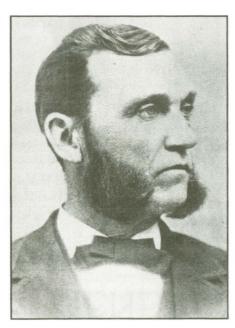
MEAT MARKETS

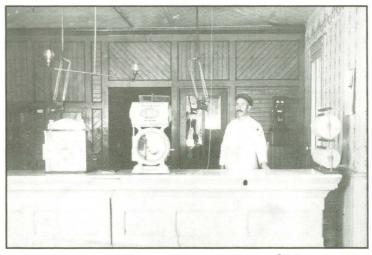
Site of Leroy B.
Farnsworth's Meat
Market in the
basement of Morris J.
Mudge's store. Zenas
Tarble had been
there previously.
Railroad Avenue goes
through between the
buildings to the depot. (Photo from
George Mudge. Afton
Historical Society.)

Leroy B. Farnsworth who had a meat market in the basement of Mudge's Store. (Photo from Afton Masonic Lodge rooms. Afton Historical Society.)

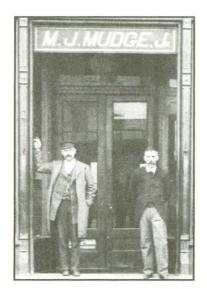


Zenas Tarble had a meat market in the basement of Joseph Decker's store at the time of the fire of 1884. He continued in the new brick building and was succeeded by William Partridge. (Photo from Afton Masonic Lodge. Afton Historical Society.)





Joe Chamberlin at the counter of his meat market, now the site of the Rendezvous Bar. In 1937, Winand's Market was there. More recently, Frank and Martha Page had Page's Market. (Photo from Glenn Russ. Afton Historical Society.)



GENERAL STORES

Augustus T. England had a store in the right hand part of the Afton Pharmacy before Bert Lord and Whit McHugh. A large warehouse stood out back by the tracks. (Photo from Harriet Van Valkenburgh. Afton Historical Society.)



Bert Lord and Whit McHugh had a general store in what was later the Post Office.
Augustus England and Fuller and Lord preceded Lord and McHugh. The building is now part of the Afton Pharmacy. (Photo from Afton Historical Society.)



Morris J. Mudge, Jr., came from Harpursville in 1889 to operate a general store in the building erected by Joseph Decker after the fire of 1884. He stands at the left side in the doorway. Morgan Hill Realty is now in the front and the Afton Christian Assembly is in the back. (Photo from George Mudge. Afton Historical Society.)



Store of George F. Decker, where Rinker Insurance is now located. The building was put up after the fire of 1885 which destroyed the Jackson and Chaffee store. Dated Jan., 1908. (Photo from Martha Hodrege. Afton Historical Society.)

Arrowhead Stores

Afton, New York
We Deliver Phone 2722

F. E. KEATOR

B. S. KEATOR, Owner
The Independent
Grocer

C. R. GREGORY & SON

Telephone 2361

R. H. Palmer & Co.

Everything in Staple and Fancy Groceries

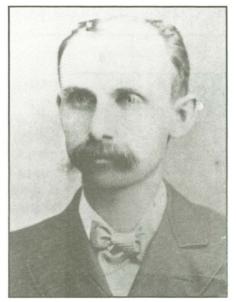
Afton - - New York

Afton supported five grocery stores in the first part of the 20th century. The Arrowhead Store was managed by Allen Herkimer; the Keator Store by Frank Keator and then by his son Bruce; E.R. Gregory and Son by Earl and Victor Gregory; R.H. Palmer by Robert Palmer, later the Victory Store; and the Grand Union by Howard Weir and later Ken Elander. (Advertising from the Afton Fair Premium Books. Afton Historical Society.)

Pledge Partridge and his family. His bakery was in the middle building of the three wooden blocks, now the site of Homeward-Bound Video and the Great American Store. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.)

Gregory's Store on the East Side, was built in 1892 as the Fuller and Pearsall Store. Earl Gregory and his son Victor were owners for several years, succeeded briefly by Phil and his mother Dorothy after the death of Victor. The store has later been an apartment and then an antique shop. (Photo from Town Historian.)

MISCELLANEOUS



George E. Jay and family owned Jay & Co., whose advertising remains on a paper sack. George Jay was also a builder who reconstructed the Sullivan House after a fire, renamed the Central House, precursor of the Afton Inn. (Photo from Afton Masonic Lodge rooms. Afton Historical Society.)



Martha Graham had a millinery shop in a building about where Sunshine Hill Florist just vacated. She and her brother-in-law, Charles Hill, had just spent about \$500 expanding the building a year before the fire of 1884. (Photo from Leonora Decker.)

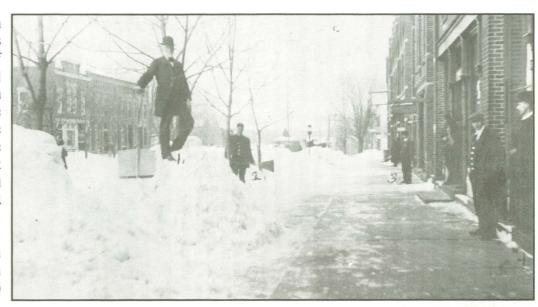


Victor J. Gregory, second generation owner of Gregory's Store. (Photo from Pomeroy Chauffeur's License negative. Afton Historical Society.)

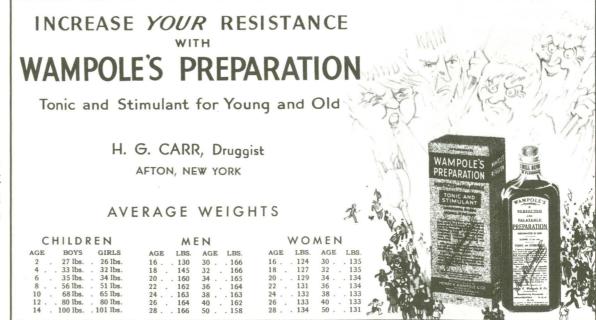
Burt Hyde succeeded his father Albert as owner of the Hyde Drug Store, established in 1869. Now the Afton Pharmacy, it is owned by Charles Goodwin. (Photo from Masonic Lodge rooms. Afton Historical Society.

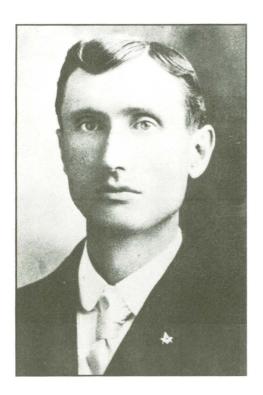
DRUGGISTS

Atop a snow bank after a storm in the 1920's is Henry Carr, proprietor of Carr's Drug Store. Behind him is Herschel Slusser, a retired farmer. Opposite him stands George Decker, owner of the store across the street now occupied by Lou Rinker's Insurance. Frank Stanbro, school principal, is the nearest figure. (Photo from Harriet Van Valkenburg. Afton Historical Society.)



Advertising blotter from Carr's Drug Store. Wampole's Preparation claimed to protect against winter weather. (Blotter from Afton Historical Society.)





Wesley Handy was a photographer who produced some of the postcards which leave a record of Afton. He also was an insurance agent. Active in the Masons, he wears a Masonic pin in his lapel. (Photo from Masonic Lodge rooms. Afton Historical Society.)

INSURANCE



Randolph C. Guy sold insurance for many years. He was succeeded by James Ernstrom who occupied the same site, now David Dodge's building. (Photo copied from original owned by grandson Norman Davies.)



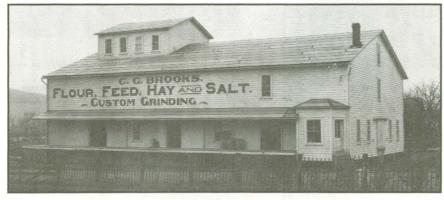
Wesley and Emma Handy, seated on their porch. Mrs. Handy kept a milliner shop in the other end of the house where Ken's Barber Shop was until recently.

(Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.)



Morris J. Mudge began business in Afton with a general store, now the site of Morgan Hill Realty. He next went into the feed business in a long building where the entry road to the River Club is located. The men in the picture are Gerald Shaw and Harry Carr.

(Picture from Harriet Van Valkenburg. Afton Historical Society.)



C.G. Brooks owned another feed store on Mill Street at the South end of town. (Photo from Isabelle Jennings. Afton Historical Society.)

Afton Co-operative G. L. F. Service

Telephone 2461

Afton, - New York

The G.L.F. (Grange League Federation) Store was on the site now occupied by the new addition of Horton Hardware. It was managed for many years by Howard Dixon. It later became the Agway Store.

(Advertisement from 1937 Afton Fair Catalog. Afton Historical Society.)

FEED STORES



Morris Mudge, with his son Alden, became M.J. Mudge & Son and purchased the Brooks building, now McDowell & Walker. Joseph Houghtaling and Clayton Slawson are the first two men. (Photo from Afton Historical Society.)



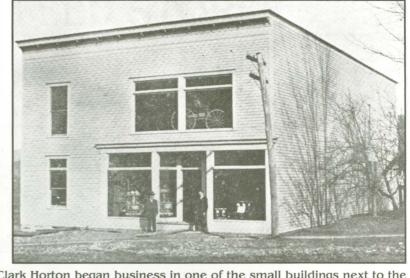
The second building to the right was at one time a creamery. It later became the site of G.L.F. and later the Agway store. Frank Lee was manager of the Agway for many years. Raymon Birdsall had a repair garage in the first building. These buildings burned and were replaced by Horton's addition. (Photo from Thelma Brown.)



George Hickox's Hardware Store is the second from the left in the row of new modern buildings erected after the fire of 1884. A plow and other items stand in front. Part of the Treasure Chest is now in that site. (Photo from Pomeroy glass plate negative. Afton Historical Society.)



Morgan Hardware stands on the old Jackson Chaffee site. It was built by Henry Kirtland after the fire of 1885. Owners after Morgan were Eugene Webster, Littlewood, and Marion and Glenn Swart. Now occupied by Lou Rinker. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album.)



Clark Horton began business in one of the small buildings next to the Agway store. He dealt in country produce and butter. On April 28, 1906, he opened his new hardware store which still bears his name, although Charles Gaydrous is the present owner. His son Harry was a partner.

Extensive additions were made in 1972, 1987, and 1994.

(Photo from Town Historian.)



Harry Horton sitting in a buggy beside his hardware store.

There were two buggies still remaining when
Charles Gaydrous bought the business in 1959.

(Photo from Glenn Russ. Afton Historical Society.)



This firkin factory was part of the complex which housed the Sash and Blind Factory and the village gas plant for lights. It burned in 1902.

(Photo from Town Historian.)



Briggs Lumber Company was on the site of the old Sash & Blind Factory which burned in 1902. The Church Brothers then had a lumber yard there, followed by the Afton Coal and Lumber Company. The site was purchased by Roscoe Briggs of Oneonta and John Tobey became manager in 1932. It is now the Afton Country Mall. (Photo from Gertrude Crane.

Afton Historical Society.)

LUMBER & COAL



BIRD'S
AMERICAN
DOUBLE TWINS

RED GREEN BLUE-BLACK

10" x 40"

Slate surfaced. Coated on the back. Approved by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Average shipping weight, 200 pounds per square.

Only 450 nails needed to fasten one square.

BIRD & SON, inc.

East Walpole, Mass.

Chicago Office and Plant, 1472 West 76th Street

New York Office, 295 Fifth Avenue Bird & Son, Ltd., Hamilton, Ontario

7534 5 26 5000 R O 1083 Afton C

Afton Coal & Lbr. Co.

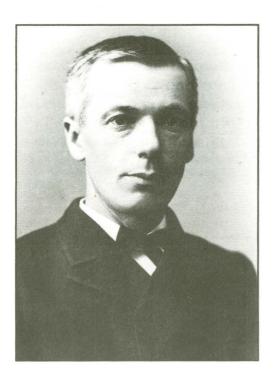
Afton

N. Y.

Advertising blotter for the Afton Coal & Lumber Company. Owned by Unadilla people, it was managed by Lawrence Humiston and a Mr. Demeree. (Blotter from Afton Historical Society.)

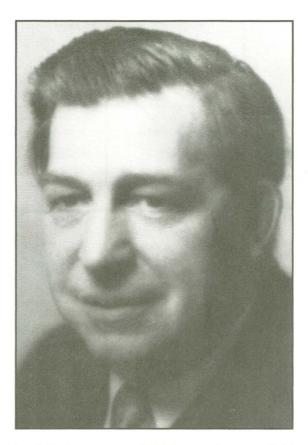


After Bert Lord was New York Assemblyman and Senator, he continued his interests in the lumber business. He bought woodlots, cut the trees, and sold much of the wood for mine props for the coal mines. This operation for cutting and loading props on rail cars was back of the Afton Pharmacy, part of which was the Lord and McHugh general store. Mr. Lord is at right. (Photo from John Gregg. Afton Historical Society.)



George A. Haven was born in Pitcher. After graduating from Albany Law School in 1873, he came to Afton to practice law. He was District Attorney 1884-1887. He represented the installed officers of the village when the first election was challenged in 1892. (Photo from Perkins Family album. Owned by Charles Decker.)

LAWYERS



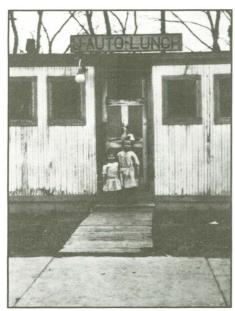
Paul E. Brown, a 1915 graduate of Albany Law School, began his practice in the Martin Block, now known as the Whitman Block. His daughter Thelma acted as his clerk until his death in 1943. (Picture from Thelma Brown.

Afton Historical Society.)

Another Afton lawyer was Jacob B. Kirkhuff who came to Afton from Savanna, N.Y., in 1870. He also was a graduate of Albany Law School. He practiced with Josiah D. Merritt after 1879. (Information from History of the Town of Afton by Oliver P. Judd.)



Darwin H. Craig, an Afton native, graduated from Albany Law School and practiced for many years here. He also sold insurance and real estate. His office was over the Hyde Drug Store. (Photo from Afton Historical Society.)



RESTAURANTS

Florence & Thelma Brown on the steps of their parents' U-Auto-Lunch in 1918. It later was the site of the Ideal Restaurant. (Photo from Thelma Brown. Afton Historical Society.) Special Sunday Dinner

Home Cooking

Schohanna Restaurant

Rhea Holcomb

Afton: New York

Route 7

Dial Afton 2714

Rhea Holcomb as a young girl in the 1930's. She owned the Schohanna Restaurant on the site of the present Home-Ward-Bound Video store.

Mildred Scanlon was cook for many years. Cora Rose later owned the restaurant.

(Photo from Afton Historical Society.)



AFTON QUICK LUNCH

REMODLED REFINISHED LUNCH WAGON

Electric Light. Modern Cooking. Prices Reasonable

WM. M. MERRELL, AFTON, N. Y.

The U-Auto-Lunch was remodeled and reopened as the Afton Quick Lunch by William M. Merrell. (Ad from Afton Fair Premium Book. Afton Historical Society.)



The Midway Diner dates from about 1935. In 1937, it was operated by Fred C. Talbot as the Ideal Diner. Later it was run by Sam Laux and Joe Roy, then by Donald and Betty Smith. It was moved to Sidney in 1975 and has been recently sold and has been razed to make way for a convenience store.

(Photo from Coco Roy. Afton Historical Society.)

Thought to be Linus E.
Jackson who came
from Franklin in 1868
and had a wagon shop
on Caswell Street, later
owned by George
Goodnough. (Photo
from Town Historian.)

LIVERY & BLACKSMITHS & HARNESS

LIVERY & DRAYING

G. L. HOLDRIDGE

"Old St. James" Barns

Afton, N. Y.

B. J. Mulleneux

Manufacturer of Wagons and Sleighs. All kinds of Agricultural Repair Work. Satisfaction guaranteed. Prices Low. Service Prompt AFTON, N.Y.

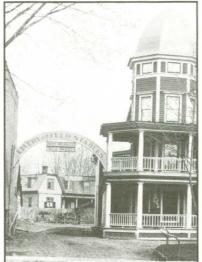
C. O. SACKETT

Afton BLACKSMITH NewYork

All kinds of Horse shoeing. We carry in stock Leather and Rubber Pads and Neverslips (drive or screw calks), and all kinds of shoes required by horses

Shop closed Saturday afternoons from May 1 to Nov'r 1

~ ^^^^^^^^^^



Livery and feed stables behind the Central House, now the Afton Inn. Operated by Bert Reynolds and Will Briggs.

George L. Holdridge advertised in the Afton Fair Premium Book in 1908 and B.J. Mulleneux and C.O. Sackett in 1916. (Photo from Charles Decker. Premium Books from Afton Historical Society.)



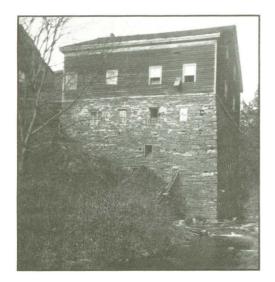
Harness Shop of Rufus E. Smith, now the site of St. Agnes Church. (Photo from Town Historian.)



Blacksmith Shop of Eli C.
Mackley on South Main Street.
The home of Mr. and Mrs. Tony
Kane is now on the site. About
1914. (From Daisy Hurd
Decker album.)



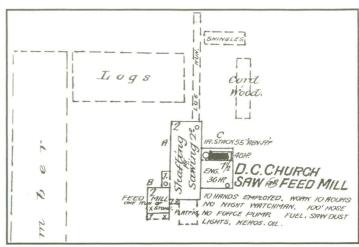
Blacksmith George Goodnough stands in front of his shop which previously was owned by Linus E. Jackson. The building is now an apartment house at 16 Caswell Street. (Copied from a photo loaned by Jerry and Elaine Brackett. Afton Historical Society.)

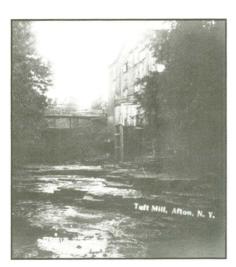


Pixley's Mill ground grist and made cider. Located in the Glen of Bump Creek, it operated for many years. Glenwood Cemetery is at the top of the right-hand bank. (Photo from a Pomeroy glass plate negative. Afton Historical Society.)

MILLS AND FACTORIES

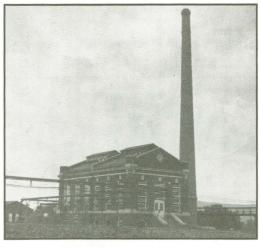
The D.C. Church
Saw and Feed Mill
was located behind
the present Afton
Community Center
with entrance from
Van Woert Street,
now Mill Street.
(From Sanborn
Insurance map from
Callie Pletl. Afton
Historical Society.)





The Taft Furniture Mill was located in the Glen of Bump Creek. It was destroyed by a flash flood in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. James Cook and infant son lost their lives. (Photo from Town Historian.)

The smokestack and one of the buildings of General Aniline and Film Company, built to manufacture nitrocellulose for photographic film in 1915. Proving to be unprofitable, the plant was razed in the 1930's. (Photo from Town Historian.)



Other mills were the Landers Spoke Factory and Shingle Mill on Kelsey Brook on Algerine Street and the Peck Mills at Middlebridge.



Frank Lewis & Sons made concrete blocks, pipe, and burial vaults just across the D&H tracks on Mill Street. Later, Jerome Bassin had a plastics plant there which burned. The Fritzsh Scrap Yard is now on the site. (Photo from Kermit Lewis. Afton Historical Society.)

Ray Fisher at age 18 in his barber shop. The shop was down Railroad Avenue back of the business blocks. (Photo from Afton Historical Society.)



Joe Bodley was an Afton barber. Others were Burnett W. Cook, Clinton Grow, Shiffer, and Dimorier. Grow and Shiffer were on the site of the Liquor store. Dimorier was down Railroad Avenue back of the business blocks. (Photo from Town Historian.)

BARBER SHOPS & CIGAR MAKERS

C. J. Eldred

manufacturer of

The "Hand Made" Cigar

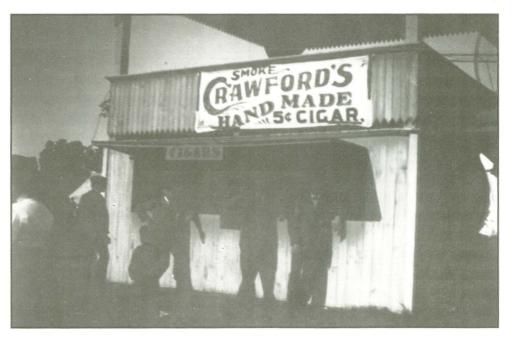
the best 5c cigar on earth, and

The "J. K. C." Cigar

a 10 center that will please you

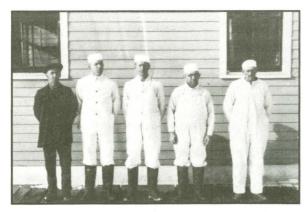
For Sale Everywhere

C.J. Eldred was making cigars in Afton in 1911. Other manufacturers were D. Brewster and Phil Waters. In 1874, large amounts of tobacco were raised in Onondaga, Chemung, Cayuga, Steuben, and Oswego Counties. Even Broome County produced 20,700 pounds and cigar making was Binghamton's biggest industry in the late 19th century. (Eldred ad from 1911 Afton Fair Premium Book. Afton Historical Society.)



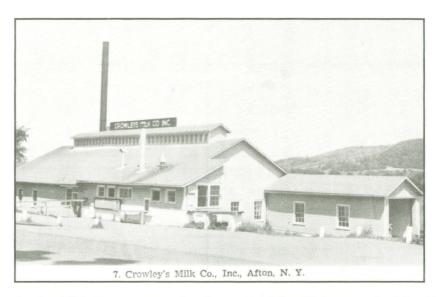
John Crawford made cigars in Afton and had a booth at the Afton Fair in 1911. Th Afton Historical Society has one of his cigar boxes. (Photo from glass plate negative from Alice Davey. Afton Historical Society.)

The original Borden Creamery was built in 1905. It later became Dairymen's League. That burned in 1974. Jesse Barr was manager for many years. (Photo from Town Historian.)

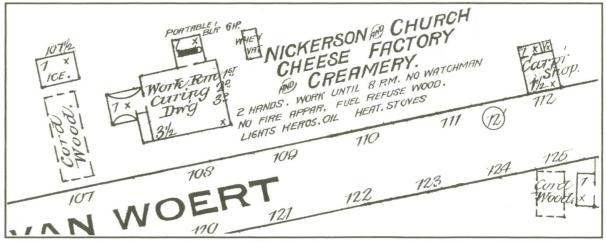


Employees of the Dairymen's League Creamery. Included are Jesse Barr, Earl Quincy, Leslie Crane, George Hoyt, and Leon Russ. Order is not certain. Before 1922. (Photo from Glenn Russ. Afton Historical Society.)

CREAMERIES



Crowley's Milk Company plant was originally occupied by The Sheffield Farms Company. Managers were Sam Matthews, Arthur Bacon, and Francis Crandall. After the plant closed, milk was taken to Coventry. (Photo from Town Historian.)



The Nickerson and Church Cheese Factory and Creamery was located across the street from the Post Office on Van Woert Street, now Mill Street. (From Sanborn Insurance Map, 1885, from Callie Pletl. Afton Historical Society.)

The Afton Post Office was for many years in the Martin Block, now known as the Whitman Block. Later it was moved to the former Bert Lord store which is now part of the Afton Pharmacy. (Photo from Town Historian.)



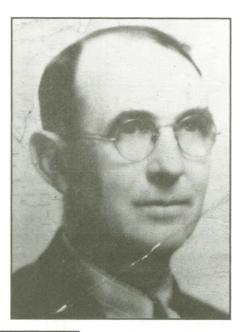
Lewis Fredenburg, among other offices, served as Postmaster in the early 20th Century.

(Photo from Fredenburg album from Mildred Merrell.

Afton Historical Society.)

POST OFFICE

Daniel Grant served as
Postmaster under the
Roosevelt Administration. He was also a
farmer and Holstein
breeder. (Photo from
Masonic rooms. Afton
Historical Society.)





Mrs. William Merrell and daughter Mildred. Nellie Merrell was the telephone central, operating from what is now the office of the Presbyterian Manse. Mildred helped later. Mildred also played for silent movies. Mildred served many years as Afton's Postmaster. (Photo from album of Daisy Hurd Decker.)

THE AFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS

Area Churches of the Past, Present and Future



The oldest existing church building in the Town of Afton is the former Universalist Church on the East Side. Built as a Union Church by Universalists and an early Presbyterian congregation in 1818-1819, it became only Universalist in 1831. That congregation dissolved in 1922.

(Postcard from Harriet Van Valkenburg about 1911. Afton Historical Society).



BAINBRIDGE COWENTRY HENANGO BROOME AFTON CHENANGO OQUAGA CREEK STATE PARK Harpursvill COLESVILLE PAGE POND HILL STATE FIRE TOWER DEPOSI SANFORD

Scope of the area in which the churches of this calendar are found. (Map from "New York State Atlas", 1980).

OUR AREA CHURCHES

The churches pictured and written about in this calendar are located in Afton and the surrounding communities of Bainbridge, Coventry, Coventryville, Harpursville, Nineveh, North Afton, and Vallonia Springs. Many of these have connections with each other, even though they are not in the same community.

When the first settlers arrived in our area, this part of the country was known as Western New York. Whitney Cross, in his book "The Burned-Over District" of 1950, describes the growth of revivalism and church development. There was a very strong competition between denominations for converts. Cross states that "For my purposes I have defined the Burned-Over District as that portion of New York State lying west of the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains". Our area certainly falls within those confines.

During the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign of 1779, General James Clinton led his army through the Susquehanna

Valley, exposing it to many future settlers as a desirable place to obtain land. The purchase of Clinton Township by Governor George Clinton from the Indians in 1785 for the re-settlement of the Vermont Sufferers opened up this area to white men for the first time. Many of these people, including the Vermont Sufferers, were from New England and brought the religious denominations of their former homes with them.

The first organized denomination in this area was the Presbyterian-Congregational Church. Local churches sometimes were called by one or the other name, but both being under the care of the Presbytery according to the Plan of Union adopted in 1801. Most of the ministers were New England trained in the Congregational tradition. The first such congregation was the Church of Cilicia of 1793, now the Bainbridge Presbyterian Church. It was the mother of the South Jericho branch, now Afton, in 1802 and of the present Sidney Congregational Church. The Nineveh Presbyterian Church was later a off-shoot.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Harpursville is nearly as old, having been incorporated in 1799. It is the oldest Episcopal congregation in Broome County and the oldest west of Utica.

The Universalist Church came early to the area, but was looked upon with dis-favor by other denominations because of differences in theology.

Baptists and Methodists came a little later, but are now the most numerous in our area. Roman Catholic churches were not organized in our area until the 20th century until after the arrival of later European immigrants. Today, new congregations which are more charismatic and evangelical are being founded.

When towns were being laid out at the time of settlement, a Gospel Lot and a School Lot were reserved. Schools and churches were not necessarily built on those lots, but income from them was used to support those institutions. Lot No. 50, now the site of North Afton, was the school lot for Clinton Township now Afton and Bainbridge. The Gospel Lot is not noted.

Church buildings did not always remain in one place. Sometimes they were moved, either with the denomination or sometimes to another denomination. The North Afton Methodist Church was originally on Route 41, not far from its present site. The Belden Church on Route 7 out of Harpursville was originally near the Chapel Cemetery in the Town of Coventry, where it was a Methodist Church. The Baptist Church of Coventry was moved to Tyner.

Congregations also moved to different buildings. The Belden Bethel Chapel moved to the Harpursville Baptist Church building when that congregation built its new church on Cumber Road. The old Second Congregational Church of Coventry is now the Methodist Church.

Parts of churches also migrated, especially when a congregation disbanded. The bell from the old Afton Universalist Church now sounds from the steeple of the North Afton Methodist Church. Stained glass windows also find new homes. Just outside of the area of this calendar, two dismantled churches have windows removed to other buildings. The Congregational Church of Chenango Forks windows are in the newer Congregational Church of Greene. The windows of the Sanford Methodist Church are now in Florida.

Our churches are an important part of our history and reflect continual change over the years.

-By Charles J. Decker. Afton Town and Village Historian.



The First Baptist Church of Afton built its original structure in 1841, much in the meeting house style. It was known as the South Bainbridge Church. Picture dated 1892. (Photo from 150th Anniversary booklet of the congregation organized in 1836).



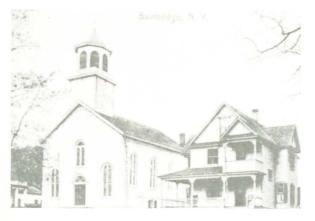
The Baptist Church was remodeled about 1905. The "Afton Enterprise" noted that the new stained glass windows had arrived at the siding in Afton. (Picture from Afton Historical Society).



A recent addition to the Afton Baptist Church extended the front and removed the belfry. The bell now rests in a frame by the entrance. A wing on the side and additional buildings at the rear have expanded the facilities. (Photo by Charles J. Decker).



The Baptist Mission Church in Vallonia Springs was dedicated Sept. 29, 1896. The congregation disbanded in 1904. The building was later used for hay storage and is now gone. (Picture from Afton Historical Society).



The Bainbridge Baptist Church was built in 1871 for a congregation organized in 1867. The steeple was removed about 1970. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).



An addition was made to the Bainbridge Baptist Church in the late 1970's. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).

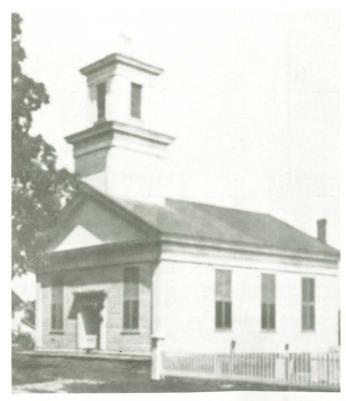


The West Bainbridge Baptist Church was organized in 1844 and the building was built in 1845. It was originally called the Second Baptist Church. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986.

An off-shoot of the First Congregational Church in Coventryville was a Baptist Church in Coventry near the Second Congregational Church. The members believed in immersion, not practiced by the Congregational Church. The original building of 1820 had burned in 1843. A new building was later sold and moved to Tyner where it was destroyed by the flood of 1935.



A large addition was put on the West Bainbridge Baptist Church in the 1980's to accommodate a growing congregation. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).



The Harpursville Baptist Church was first organized as the Chenango Baptist Church. When the building was erected in 1846, the name became the First Colesville Baptist Church. In 1881, it was reorganized with its present name. (Picture from "Famines, Fires and Festivals" by Leone Jacob, 1978).



In 1965, the Harpursville Baptist Church moved to a new building on Cumber Road. The old church was sold to the Belden Bethel Chapel which now occupies it. (Picture from "Fires, Famines and Festivals", by Leone Jacob, 1978).

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Harpursville, organized in 1799, is the oldest Episcopal congregation in Broome County. The building was erected in 1828. Worship continued until 1968, when the congregation disbanded. The property was transferred to the Old Onaquaga Historical Society and is now St. Luke's Church and Museum. (Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album).



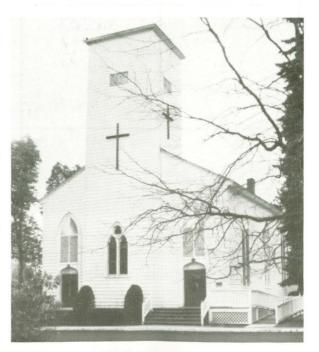


The congregation of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bainbridge was organized in 1825 and incorporated in 1826. The church was built in 1826 and consecrated in 1827. The tower was restored in 1927 and 1942. In 1972 it was remodeled and enclosed. (Picture from "History of St. Peter's Church" by Charlah Ireland Skinner, 1975).

St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bainbridge as it looks today. Much of the fine architectural detail was removed when the building was remodeled and re-sided in 1972. (Picture from "Chenango County, Twentieth Century" by Chenango County Historians, compiled by Mildred Pixley of Greene, 1998).



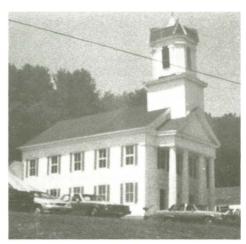
St. Luke's Church and Museum as it looks today. Several weddings have been held in the sanctuary which remains as it was. St. Luke's Day is celebrated every October. (Picture from "Fires, Famines and Festivals" by Leone Jacob, 1978).

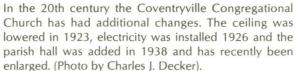




The first regular Episcopal services in Afton were conducted in an old schoolhouse near the Baptist Church about 1840. About 1857, the second floor was fitted up for a chapel. A new church building was consecrated in 1868. The church was struck by lightning on August 3, 1890 and burned completely. It was rebuilt and consecrated Oct. 6, 1891. A stereo view of the 1870's shows the steeple from near the present Town Clerk's Office. (Picture from Afton Historical Society).

St. Ann's Episcopal Church as it looked in the 1950's. It had since been re-sided and the slate roof of 1908 was recently replaced. The Parish Hall was added in 1955. (Picture from Margaret Guy Estate. Afton Historical Society).



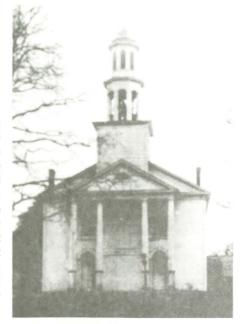




The Congregational Church of Coventryville was organized as the First Congregational and Religious Society in 1804. The original building, put up in 1807, faced south. Between 1841 and 1850 it was turned to face east and steeple, pillars and bell were added. (Picture from Scrap Book of Churches, Charles Decker).

The Second Congregational Church in Coventry village was formed by 14 members of the First Church in Coventryville. Organized in 1822, the building was put up in 1824 and enlarged in 1849. At the end of 1916, the church closed its doors due to declining membership. In 1919, the Congregational and Methodist congregations merged to become what is now the United methodist Church in the same building. (Picture from "Old Chenango County in Postcards" by David O'Connor, 1983).







The First Methodist Episcopal Society of South Bainbridge (now Afton) was incorporated in November, 1851. The building was erected in 1852, a plain meeting house style. In 1899, the tower and side addition were built. Later rooms were added at the back. (Postcard picture from Harriet VanValkenburg. Afton Historical Society).



In Harpursville, the First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized on March 12, 1844. The building was erected in 1845 opposite the present Harpursville Central School. It was used until the new stone church was built in 1920. (Picture from "Fires, Famines and Festivals" by Leone Jacob, 1978).



Now the United Methodist Church of Afton, it has dedicated a large new wing in 1999. The Springsteen house formerly occupied the lot of the wing. (Picture by Charles Decker).

The First Methodist Episcopal Church Society in Nineveh was organized in 1853 and the building erected in 1855. The congregation merged with the Harpursville Methodist Church and the building was razed about 1920. The bell is now in the Harpursville tower. (Postcard picture about 1912. From Town Historian).



The present stone building of the Harpursville United Methodist Church was completed in 1920. Three buildings were removed from the site to make room for the new church. (Picture from "Fires, Famines and Festivals" by Leone Jacob, 1978).





The United Methodist Church in North Afton was organized in 1829 as The Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Congregation in Newton Hollow. Then in 1833 it was re-organized as the West Bainbridge Methodist Episcopal Church. The building was erected in 1829, but either it was moved or a new church was built in 1864. The steeple has been greatly altered. (Picture postcard from Harriet VanValkenburg. Afton Historical Society).



This Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1853 in Coventry where the Town Hall is now located. By 1919 the church was weak and the Second Congregational Church had closed. The two merged and the Second Church building is now the United Methodist Church. (Photo from Jeanette Grover Meeker).



The present United Methodist Church in Coventry was the original Second Congregational Church which disbanded in 1916. It was remodeled and rededicated in June 28, 1921. (Picture postcard from Hazel Riley. Afton Historical Society).

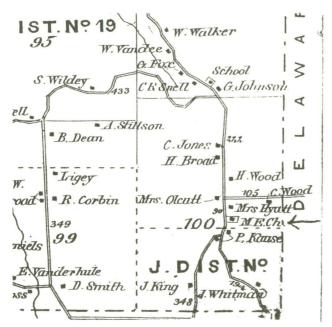


The North Afton United Methodist Church as it appears today. The steeple has been altered and social hall and kitchen have been added at the rear. The bell from the old Universalist Church now peals from its tower. (Photo by Charles J. Decker).

The Methodist Church in Coventry started as the First Methodist Episcopal Society in Coventry, called Union in 1819. It was re-organized as the West Coventry Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1829. The church built in 1829 was moved to Belden where it is still used. It was originally three miles south of Coventry near the Chapel Cemetery.



The Coventry United Methodist Church at present. The 19th century steeple was replaced in recent years and a fellowship hall has been built. (Photo by Charles J. Decker).



A Methodist Church was organized at East Afton in 1868. A building was erected on a lot donated by a Mr. Hyatt. The building is now gone. (S.E. corner of Town of Afton). (Map from "Chenango County Atlas"; Beers, 1875).



The First Methodist Society of the Town of Bainbridge was organized in 1816. The first building was erected on Evans Street in 1833. In 1833 the name changed and in 1853 the congregation became known as The North Bainbridge Village Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Afterwards the old church was remodeled to become a two family house. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).



The present United Methodist Church in Bainbridge was built in 1902. An addition on the back was made in 1918. Extensive remodeling was done in 1960 and 1963. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).



The First Universalist Society of the Town of Bainbridge was organized in 1818. The church, the oldest in the Town of Afton, was erected in 1818-1819. Reorganized as The First Universalist Society of South Bainbridge in 1855. It was used jointly by Presbyterians Universalists until about 1830. (Picture postcard Harriet from Van Valkenburg. Afton Historical Society).

The Universalist Church on the East Side disbanded in 1922 and the building was sold at auction. For a time it was used by a Pilgrim Holiness group and by the Ku Klux Klan. About 1932, it was drastically remodeled when Afton Central School leased it for a school bus garage. It is now used for storage. The old bell hangs in the North Afton United Methodist Church. (Photo by Charles J. Decker).





By 1875, enough Presbyterians were living in Afton to want their own church again. On February 19, the First Presbyterian Church of Afton was organized and the building was erected in 1876 with the dedication in January of 1877. (Picture from Town Historian).



About 1909, the Afton Presbyterian Church had its tower moved to one side and an addition put on the front. The stained glass windows were added then. In 1926, the Parish Hall was added. (Picture from Pomeroy glass plate negative. Afton Historical Society).



The steeple of the Afton Presbyterian Church was enclosed in the 1970's and the building has been re-sided. The old cast concrete cement block entrance platform by Frank Lewis and Sons has been replaced. (Photo by Charles Decker).



Afton Presbyterians were first organized in South Jericho in 1802 as a branch of the Church of Cilicia in North Jericho, now Bainbridge. In 1818-1819, the Presbyterians joined with the Universalists to build a Union Church on the East Side. In 1831 the Presbyterians went to Nineveh where twelve members helped to re-organize the Nineveh Presbyterian Church.

The South Bainbridge and Nineveh Presbyterian Church was organized in October, 1831 in Nineveh. A previous congregation had built a church building but had not formally organized. In November, 1841 the Bainbridge and Nineveh Presbyterian Church was organized. Bainbridge was dropped from the name in 1864. The present building was dedicated in 1850. The old building is incorporated in the former manse next door. (Picture postcard from Town Historian).

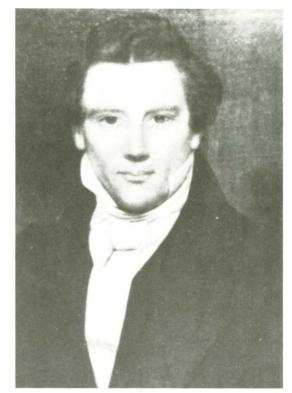


The Nineveh Presbyterian Church was raised for a new basement several years ago. About 1995, a new wing was added in the area of the horse sheds shown in the early picture. In 1999, a new front platform and balustrade were added. The congregation will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the building in 2000. (Photo by Charles Decker).



A small Presbyterian Church once stood on Cole's Hill out of Harpursville. It later became a Free Methodist Church. The building, now gone, was in a state of disrepair in the picture of 1920. (Picture from "Fires, Famines and Festivals" by Leone Jacob, 1978).

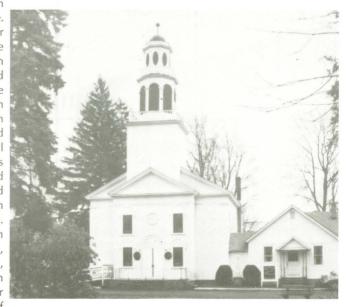
The Mormons, under Joseph Smith, had no church building in this area, but before their departure in 1830 for the west, from 20-30 members from the Towns of Bainbridge, Colesville and Harmony had been baptized into the new religion. They retained their identity as the Colesville Branch until they were forced to leave Missouri in 1836. (Picture of Joseph Smith from "Joseph Smith: the First Mormon". Donna Hill, 1977).





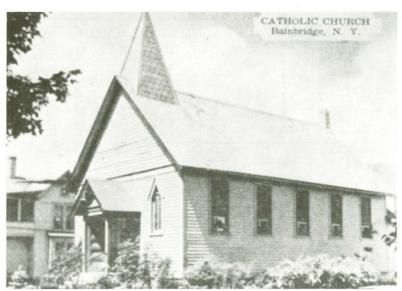
The First Presbyterian Church of Bainbridge began as the Congregational Society of Cilicia in March, 1793. A church building begun in 1799 was never finished and finally burned down. In 1802 a separate congregation was formed in South Jericho and in 1805 another was formed in Sidney Plains, now the Sidney Congregational Church. The present building was probably erected in 1831. (Picture postcard from Town Historian).

The First Presbyterian Church of Bainbridge. Extensive interior changes were made in 1866. The parish house was added onto in 1954. The congregation alternated between Congregational and Presbyterian until 1961 when it was legally incorporated as the First United Presbyterian Church Bainbridge. (Picture from "Chenango County, Twentieth Century", compiled by Town Historians under Mildred Pixley of Greene, 1998).





Roman Catholics celebrated their first Mass in Afton at the Grange Hall in Afton in 1946. In July of that year, Mass was said in the old Village Hall and that building was used until St. Agnes Church was completed and dedicated on October 2, 1949. (Picture from Town Historian).



The first Mass in Bainbridge was celebrated in 1908 in the Grange Hall. St. John's Church was dedicated on September 16, 1914. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).



St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Afton. Completed in 1949, its 50th Anniversary will be celebrated in 1999. (Drawing by Linda Cook DeVona. Picture given by Julie Still).



Like many other churches in the area, St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Bainbridge outgrew its space, so added onto the front a few years ago. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).



The Bainbridge Free Methodist Church was erected in 1867 on Front Street. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).



In 1986, the Bainbridge Free Methodist Church was no longer used for services. The back had been made into modern apartments and the front was being arranged as offices. (Picture from "Stones from the Walls of Jericho" by Edward Danforth, 1986).



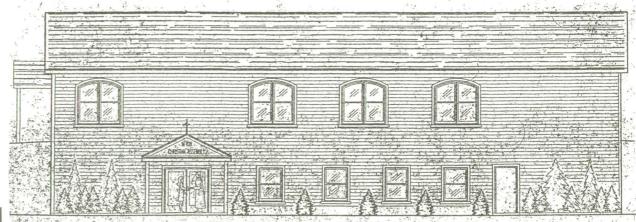
The old Baptist Church in Harpursville, built in 1846, was sold to the Belden Bethel Chapel after the new Baptist Church was built on Cumber Road. The appearance has changed little since its erection. (Photo by Charles Decker).



The former Belden Bethel Chapel is now the Belden Church. It stands on Route 7 between Harpursville and the foot of Belden Hill. One source says that it was originally the Methodist Church which was moved from near Chapel Cemetery in Coventry. (Photo by Charles Decker).



Grace Christian Fellowship is a new congregation on Route 7 just out of Bainbridge. The church is a new onestory structure. (Photo by Charles Decker).



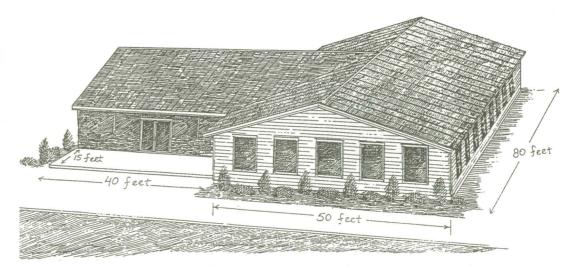


The foundation has been completed for the Afton Christian Assembly on Route 41 north of Afton. First services were held in 1988, the congregation was incorporated in 1989, and the property was purchased in 1994. For a time services were held at the rear of Morgan Hill Realty, but now they are held at the home of Pastor David Sallah. (Photo by Charles Decker).



Afton's newest church is the Higher Ground Christian Church which will be located on East Main Street. The congregation has been meeting since 1996. At present, services are held at the Algonquin Grange in Bainbridge. (Photo by Charles Decker).





phase 1

Proposed first stage of the Higher Ground Christian Church in Afton. An extension at the rear will be made later. The lot on East Main Street has been cleared and construction will begin in July, 1999. (Sketch by Linda Cook DeVona. Furnished by Ralph Burns, congregation member).



The Afton Historical Society Remembers...

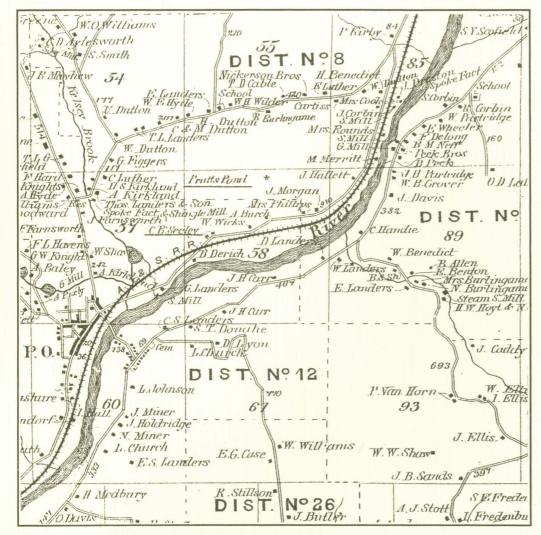


Afton Lake

Aerial view of Afton Lake about 1957, looking toward Route 7. The Goodwin house is at lower right. (Photo from Pat Maher Rickman)







Afton Lake is not shown as a body of water on this map, but the name Pratt's Pond is noted with a star. The second house by the name of C.B. Seeley is apparently the one later known as the Vail house. (Map from "Atlas of Chenango County, New York" by Beach Nichols. 1875.)

AFTON LAKE

The area of Afton Lake has seen a variety of activities over the years of its history. It has been farmland, a resort area, the property of a large manufacturing company, the site of ice harvesting, and is now ringed by attractive private homes.

A series of owners have possessed the property of which the old house faces Route 7. Great Lot 58 was awarded in 1786 to Vermont Sufferers Reuben Smith, 170 acres; Ephraim Knapp, 100 acres; Artemas Howe, 200 acres; and David Howe, 170 acres. The Susquehanna River bisects the Great Lot into two almost equal parts so that each grant extends to both sides of the stream. That of Ephraim Knapp encompasses the lake area while that of Reuben Smith includes part of the Afton Golf Club. There is no record of the four grantees actually coming to what was then Jericho. Many of the large number did not.

The first known occupant of the Afton Lake property was Levi Pratt who was not a Vermont Sufferer. Once known as Round Pond, the lake became Pratt's Pond. The 1855 Chenango County map shows D.D. Bullock as the owner. In the 1885 New York State Census he is shown as a farmer and boarder in the household of John Service and a native of Herkimer County. G.L. Babcock appears on the 1864 map of Chenango and Cortland Counties and C.B. Seeley is shown in the 1875 Chenango County Atlas. In 1880,

Joshua Hallet was the owner. In 1911, Lewis H. Harris of Binghamton owned the farm and operated a small resort on the lake. Young Clarence Vail managed the farm for him.

When the Ansco Company bought three farms for the site of its new manufacturing plant in 1914, Clarence Vail leased the lake

farm and lived there until about 1945. The barn burned in about 1943 or 1944. The George Vicary family next owned the house. The present owners are Karen and Peter Feltham. Karen is a granddaughter of Clarence Vail and her brother, Mike Johnson, lives nearby on the property. Clarence's grandson, Peter Vail, and his wife Carol, live across the D & H tracks on the Ansco Plant tract and his brother Tom and his wife Betty live just over the boundary on the former Holmes farm property.

The Ansco Plant was built so as to be near Afton Lake to take advantage of its very pure water for the manufacture of nitrocellulose

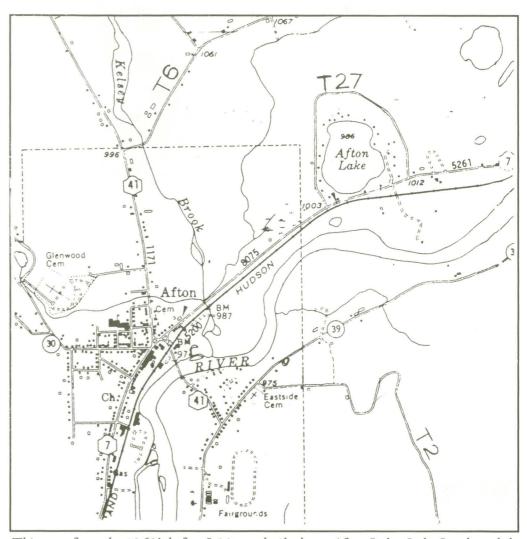
used in the making of photographic film. By 1922 the plant had closed. Officers stated that with operations at only 25% of capacity, "It was better business for us to buy our nitrocellulose in the open market". The plant was razed in the 1930's.

In 1947, the Ansco property was sold in two parts. The Afton Lake Association purchased the lake and the surrounding area. Carroll Vail purchased the remainder of the tract. The lake is now surrounded by private year-round homes and some cottages.

For several years, the site of the A-frame house built by Sheldon and Phyllis Maskin was known as the Red Cross Lot. To that spot were bussed school children for summertime swimming and lifesaving lessons.

For many years ice harvesting was an important activity on Afton Lake. A large ice house stood near Rout 7. That and the ice house of the Borden Creamery on Mill Street were filled each winter. Many farmers also purchased ice to fill their own ice houses. Mrs. Clarence Vail did the paper work and collected the ice money from the farmers.

—By Charles J. Decker Afton Town and Village Historian



This map from the 1960's before I-88 was built shows Afton Lake, Lake Road, and the houses around the lake. (Map prepared by the Afton Planning Board. Undated.)



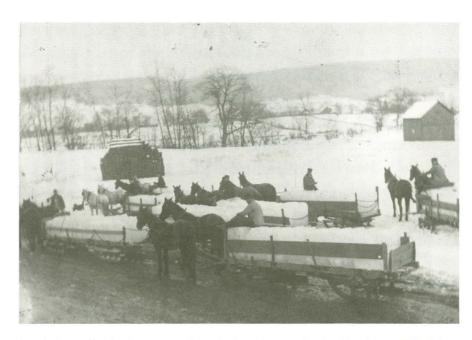
Ice cutting scene on the lake dated 1926. The ice plow pulled by the horse made deep grooves in the ice surface for breaking off the cakes. The ice plow shown may be the same one presented to the Afton Historical Society by Peter and Tom Vail and Judy Giblin. (Picture from Town Historian)



Floats of ice being guided by men using spud bars. The elevator carried the cakes up into the old ice house which stood between Afton Lake and Route 7. The ice house was torn down many years ago when the highway was being widened. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album)



Starting the ice floats along the channel toward the ice house and loading point on Afton Lake in 1926. The worker is using a spud bar similar to one in the Afton Museum barn. (Photo from Town Historian)



Loaded ice sleighs leaving Afton Lake. In 1916, the Bordens Milk Plant hired 25 such teams to fill its ice house. About 450,000 tons were packed away to serve for the next season. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album)



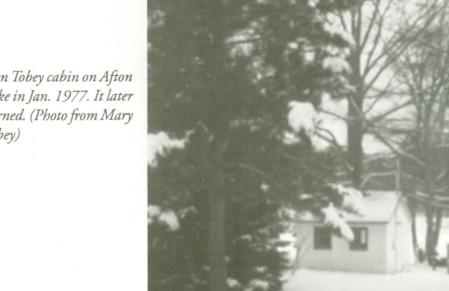
John Tobey cleaning the ice for a hockey game, Dec. 1976. (Photo from Mary Tobey)



Afton Lake from back of the John Tobey home. March, 1977. (Photo from Mary Tobey)



Ron and Mike Zablocki, David Morell, Theresa Zablocki, Alice Morell, Karen and Irene Zablocki and Robert Morrell playing hockey near the Tobey home. Dec. 1976. (Photo from Mary Tobey)



John Tobey cabin on Afton Lake in Jan. 1977. It later burned. (Photo from Mary Tobey)

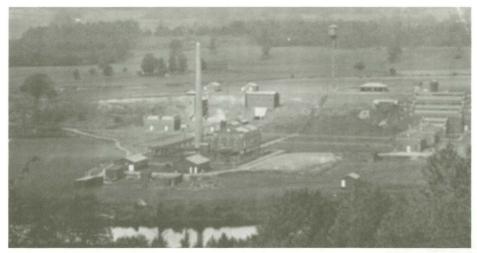


The Vail farmhouse on Afton Lake. Clarence Vail lived there until about 1945. The present owners are Karen Feltham, granddaughter of Mr. Vail, and her husband Peter. Her brother, Mike, lives nearby on the lake property. (Picture from Karen and Peter Feltham)





Dr. Uli Boschert and Clarence Vail who leased the Afton Lake farm from the Ansco Company and had a dairy. The barn burned about 1943. (Picture from "Sunday Press", Nov. 25, 1956)



The Ansco Plant with the Susquehanna River in the foreground. There were some 12 buildings on about 17 acres. (Picture from Town Historian)

Mr. George Topliff and his wife Margaret built a cottage at Afton Lake when he was general manager of the Ansco Company, sometime after 1900. They used a nearby building for a dining hall and a third one for the servants. This eventually became the house now owned by Mr. & Mrs. William Maguire. (Picture from "Binghamton and Broome County, New York" Editor William Foote Seward, 1924.)





The power plant of the Ansco Plant complex opposite Afton Lake. At the time of demolition, seven pounds of dynamite were used. The bricks and motor fell within forty feet of the base of the smokestack. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album)



Part of the Ansco plant buildings on a steep slope between the D & H tracks and the Susquehanna River, opposite Afton Lake. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album)



The pumphouse pumped water from Afton Lake to the Ansco plant across Route 7 and the D & H Railroad. It was remodeled as a residence by Alan Gaydorus and is now owned by Eric Cheney. (Photo by Charles Decker)



The original Ansco cottage built by George and Margaret Topliff appears behind the flag at the left. The building to the right was the dining hall and is now Don Sweet's house. The servants stayed in another building to the right. (Picture from Town Historian)



The present William Maguire house on Afton Lake. The left-hand wing with the dormer window was the original Ansco cottage. (Photo from Marge and Bill Maguire)



Dr. and Mrs. Uli Boschert in the living room of their home at Afton lake in 1956. The house is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Maguire. (Picture from "Sunday Press", Nov. 25, 1956)



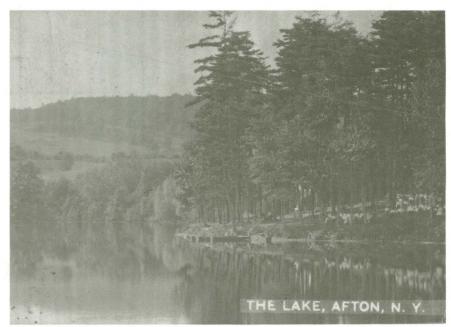
A boathouse at the Boschert home on Afton Lake in 1956, this little building was originally the depot on the D & H for the Ansco Plant and Afton Lake. (Picture from "Sunday Press", Nov. 25, 1956)



Married ladies picnic at a grove at Afton Lake in about 1904. Their hats seem about to take off into the trees. One identifiable lady is Mrs. Morris J. Mudge. (Photo from Town Historian)



According to Oliver P. Judd, in his "History of the Town of Afton" of 1911, Lewis H. Harris owned "three places near Afton Lake which is quite a resort". Anne Tobey calls it "a small amusement park" on the east side of the lake. This scene would be part of it. (Picture from Town Historian)





Bridge to Pine Knoll at Afton Lake. (Photo from Town Historian)



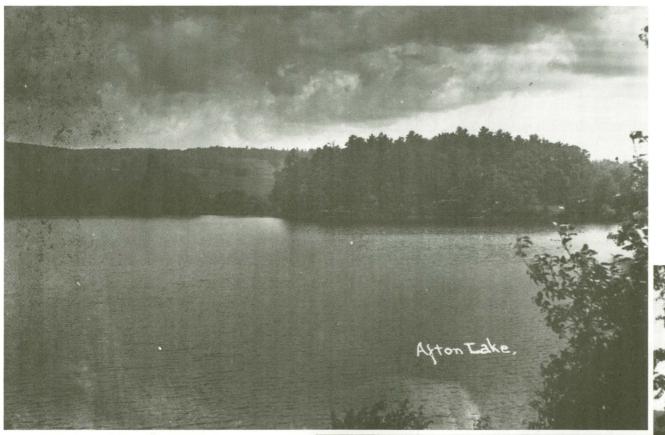
Bathing beauties at Afton Lake. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album)



A rustic cottage on Afton Lake. It would have been a cool retreat on a hot summer day. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album)

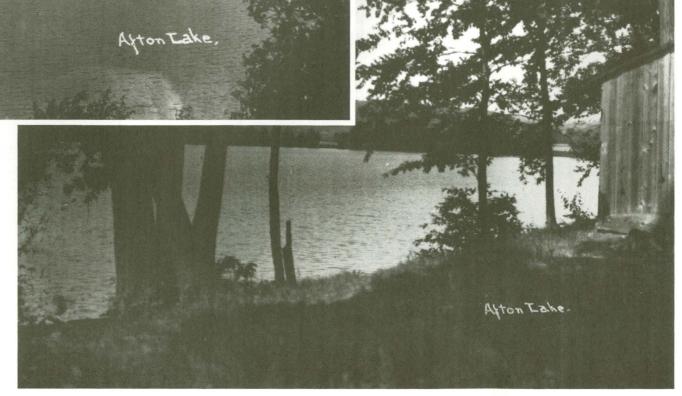


Corseted ladies and wool clad gentlemen ready for an afternoon of food and relaxation at a summer cottage at Afton Lake. (Photo from Mrs. Elsenboss, Woodbury, Conn.)



Storm clouds over Afton Lake . Photo by Julian Campbell about 1913. (From Bruce Campbell, Anchorage, Alaska. Afton Historical Society.)

Cottage at Afton Lake. Photo by Julian Campbell about 1913. (From Bruce Campbell, Anchorage, Alaska. Afton Historical Society.)





Cottages on Afton Lake. Photo by Julian Campbell about 1913. (From Bruce Campbell, Anchorage, Alaska. Afton Historical Society.)

Afton Lake. Photo by Julian Campbell about 1913. (From Bruce Campbell, Anchorage, Alaska. Afton Historical Society.)



This poem was written for Charlie Hyde by Lu B. Cake. Charlie died of typhoid pneumonia in 1895 at the age of 17. He was an uncle of the late Neil Hyde. Published in "The Devil's Tea-Table" by Lu B. Cake in 1898.

The Grave of A Star

(The children saw the Author coming to their picnic at the lake. Curly haired Charley Hyde ran to meet the visitor crying, "Oh, please write me a poem on this lake!" It was written that day to please the boy who is now happy in the home above the stars.)

Far back in days unnumbered,

The morning Stars were young,
Around their home in heaven

Like children played and sung.

The moon was their sweet mother,
As all good mothers are
And in her silver cradle,
She rocked each baby star.

There all the stellar children
Had nothing else to do,
But play, and play forever,
In meadow-lands of blue.

Good children, bright and happy, Until one little star Beheld the golden sunbeams Fall from the sun, afar.

It dropped the silver playthings, Began to cry and scold, For Mother Moon to give it The shining rays of gold.

In vain she tried to please it, With countless silver toys: It only grew more naughty, Just like some little boys.

One Evening as these children
Put star rays in the dew,
This Naughty saw the sunbeams
That lay in plainest view
Upon the hills of Afton;
It vowed to have them, too.

While Mother Moon was rocking A baby star to sleep, Sly Naughty dropped its playthings, And, with a sudden leap, It sprang to catch the sunbeams— Down, down the dizzy height It fell, all-radiant, beaming Athrill with strange delight.

The golden rays all vanished!

Bewildered, frightened, lost,
The falling star descended,

Just like a fair soul tossed,

Down, down the deep of darkness— All heaven could not save; It plunged to Earth, self-buried In that deep, open grave.

The tears of heaven's children
Shed for the lost one's sake,
In that grave falling nightly,
There formed a crystal lake.

And near the Susquehanna, Among the Afton hills, It may be seen in passing, Unfed by creeks, or rills.

The depth cannot be fathomed;

'Tis pure, and bright, and clear,
Born not of earth, but heaven:

Just like an angel's tear.

Around the mirrored margin, To warn 'gainst golden dreams, Bloom rare, gold water lilies, Poor Naughty's golden beams.

And oft, upon the bosom,
Unmoved by wind or wave,
The moon lies like a mother
Upon a lost child's grave.

-By Lu B. Cake



Lu (Luther) B. Cake was born in Ohio, taught school in California, worked for a newspaper in Omaha, and got a law degree. He married Ella June Mead of Afton and the pair toured 14 states, giving entertainments. He wrote several books, including "Peepstone Joe" about Joseph Smith, the Mormon. (Picture from Town Historian)



The Afton D & H Depot, now the River Club, where many potential visitors to Afton Lake arrived from out of town. (From Town Historian)

Stage Lines.

Deposit, Delaware Co, and Afton via Sanford, North Sanford, Howes and Vallonia Springs, leaves Deposit at 7 a m, arrives Afton 11:30 a m, leaves Afton 2:15 p m, arrives Deposit 6:30 p m

The Stage Lines from deposit to Afton brought passengers from the Erie Railroad. (From Hanford's "Directory of Chenango County", 1902)

LIVERY.

J. O. BEATMAN,

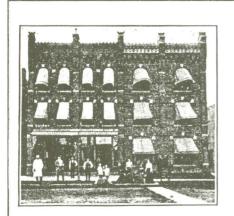
Liveryman. First-class rigs at reasonable prices. Also Justice of the Peace. All business promptly attended to.

JAS. LANDERS,

Liveryman, Good carriages, kind horses, careful drivers. Terms reasonable

Horses, carriages, and drivers could be hired from liverymen J.O. Beatman and James Landers. They could make connections with the stage from Deposit and with the D & H trains to take people to Afton Lake for daytime excursions. They also could take hotel guests.

(From: Directory of the Representative Business and Professional Men of Chenango County" 1894.



Valley

house,

Afton, R. y.

J. B. Cass

proprietor.

FIRST CLASS LIVERY ATTACHED.

Rates \$1.50 per Day.

HOT AND COLD BATHS. STEAM HEAT.

Advertisement for the Valley House, later the old Village Hall. Livery for transporting guests is prominently featured. From Hanford's "Directory of Cheanago County", 1902.

NEW RA

Hotel Phelps

PHELPS & POYER, Proprietors.

AFTON, NEW YORK.

Steam Heat, Lighted by Gas, Bath Rooms. Modern Throughout....

Livery Attached.

Special Rates to Summer Boarders.

Rales to Traveling Men Stopping over Sunday.

Summer Specials.

...BOATS TO LET...

Boats Furnished to Hunting and Fishing Parties.

All accomodations furnished to camping parties at Reasonable Rates.

Advertisement for the Hotel Phelps, now the Afton Inn, with mention of livery for transporting guests to places such as Afton Lake. (From Hanford's "Directory of Cheanngo County" 1902.



"Mr. Judd and his sleigh, who drove us home from the Lake. Miss Emma Edgerton in the sleigh." 1926. They may have been to the Vail house as members of the Vail family belonged to the Presbyterian Church as did Emma Edgerton. (From Daisy Hurd Decker album)



Depth map of Afton Lake done with Echo Sounder by Eric Wienckowski in May 2000. The greatest depth recorded is 65 feet, dispelling the idea that the lake is bottomless. (Map courtesy of Bruce Taylor)



The Afton Historical Society Remembers...

AFTON'S MUSICAL HERITAGE







Afton Central School Band directed by Russell Nygren. October, 1955. The band took many prizes in competitions such as the Pageant of Bands in Sherburne. (Photo from Afton Historical Society)



AFTON'S MUSICAL HERITAGE

Afton has a long history of participating in and listening to music. Probably the earliest settlers in a then sparsely populated area did not have time for or access to much musical enjoyment. As log cabins gave way to frame houses and farms were cleared, there was more leisure time. Neighbors and friends could then get together for barn raisings and husking bees where a fiddler might provide tunes for singing and dancing.

By the 1870's, many towns, including Afton, had bands which played for parades and celebrations. The Sullivan House, later the site of the Afton Inn, had a large hall upstairs for entertainments as did several of the business blocks. School programs held in Sullivan's Hall often included vocal and instrumental presentations. Later, with the opening of the new auditorium at the school in 1931, there was ample space for plays and musical programs. The annual "Grade Night" often had musicals. Current students also do very creditable presentations of well-known musicals.

In the first half of the twentieth century, the annual get-together of the Afton Alumni Association, after a business meeting and dinner, sometimes adjourned to the Afton Inn or Village Hall for dancing and card games. Dances were also held in the school auditorium.

Private parties and organizations held dances with music provided by bands from Afton, Bainbridge or Harpursville. Benefit dances in the 1930's helped raise funds to establish the Afton Free Library.

In the early days, musical instruments were not allowed in churches, at least in the Presbyterian Church. Psalms were sung one line at a time by a "precentor", using a pitch pipe, and then followed by the congregation. Early hymnbooks for local denominations contained only the words for the songs plus the name of the hymn tune. The singer was expected to know the tune. The old Universalist Church on the East Side, built jointly with the Presbyterians in 1818, was the first in town to have a pipe organ. Its bell is now in the North Afton Methodist Church. Church bells, a form of music, are seldom heard on Sunday morning in Afton today.

The school has been important in teaching and promoting music. Permelia Hayes, wife of Dr. Philetus Hayes, conducted an innovative music program for many years, beginning in the old Afton Academy and Union Free School. She had a doctorate in her own right from Brown University.

From 1938 to his retirement, Russell Nygren led the Afton Central School Band which excelled in many competitions such as the Pageant of Bands at Sherburne. Many alumni remember with pride their school days in the band. Russ still plays for many social

engagements and his Jazz Band Ball concert during Afton's Arts and Crafts Days is a special event.

The Afton Fair music programs always drew large crowds before the days of television. Afternoon and evening performances such as the famous Edwin Franco Goldman Band could be seen and heard in person in the 1930's. Barbara Mandrell was once a guest performer.

Radio brought programs such as the Longines Symphonette and Jessica Dragonette into our homes. Still today, the Metropolitan Opera and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir are enjoyed by millions on their Saturday and Sunday broadcasts. Popular music may be heard on many stations.

The evolution of recording, from the Edison cylinder record to the latest CD, has made possible the listening to music at any time desired. Many people have continued their musical interest acquired in school by having their own instruments, including pianos and organs. Many local people sing in church choirs and community choruses.

As long as there is music, Aftonians will continue to enjoy it in all its various forms. By Charles J. Decker, Afton Town and Village

Historian.



Social occasions required the services of musicians. The Afton Quadrille Band played for a dance at Sullivan's Hall on October 23, 1873. (Invitation card from Glenn T. Gregory. Afton Historical Society)

A party at the Phelps Opera House in Afton on December 15, 1896, featured the Bainbridge Orchestra. (Invitation card from Mrs. Sejersen. Afton Historical Society) Yourself and Lady are Cordially Invited to Attend a

SES Private Party.

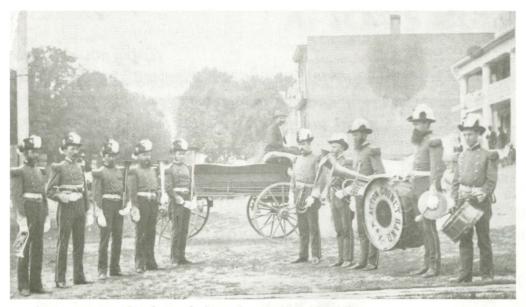
AT

Phelps Opera House

Afton, N. Y.,

Tuesday Evoning, Dec. 15th, 1896.

E. M. DAKIN, Prop.



Afton Band on steps of store of Charles Hill. Before fire of 1884. Some of the musicians may be the same as in the 1870's picture. (Picture from Isabelle Jennings. Afton Historical Society)

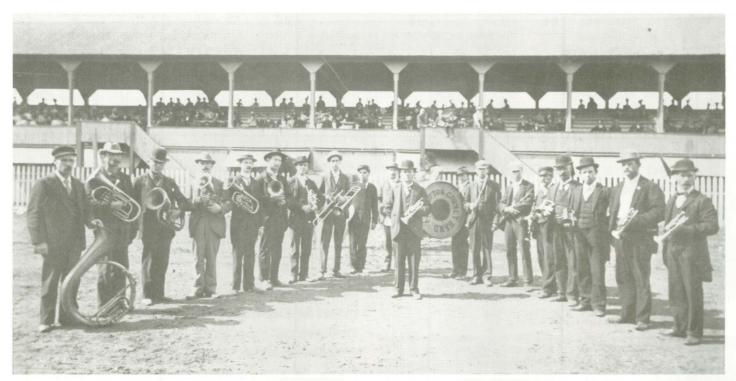


Afton Cornet Band in front of white columned hotel built by Alpheus and Josiah Wright. Left to right: Henry Carr, John Pierce Rush Church, George Hickox, Burr Farnsworth, Al Estabrooks, Lew Holdridge, Justus Carr, Ralph Chamberlin, Arthur Carpenter. Wagon driver: John Chamberlin. The hotel burned in 1877. (Photo from Harriet VanValkenburg. 1870's. Afton Historical Society)



The Windsor Band playing for perhaps an Independence Day celebration in front of the Sullivan House. It burned in 1898. (Picture from glass plate from Pomeroy Collection. Afton Historical Society)





The Afton Cornet Band at the Afton Fair about 1900. Left to right: Will Carruth, William H. Carr, Frank Payne, Grant Colvin, George Carr, Fred Goodnough, Tracy Doolittle, Paul Pierce, ????, Phil Waters, Bert Doolittle (leader), Dick Pierce, John Demeree, Prof. Charles S. Gibson, John Hawkins, Peter Quick, George Goodnough, Bert Pearsall, Frank Carr. (Photo from Afton Historical Society)





Afton Citizens Band float. A sousaphone played by Harry Carr now is one display at the Afton Museum, the gift of Russell Nygren. Tracy Doolittle on side of wagon. Postcard from about 1920. (Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album)





From the earliest Afton Fairs, the calliope sounds of the merry-go-round have been familiar to children and adults alike. 1930's. (Photo from Harry Horton album, given by Hyman Wilcox. Afton Historical Society)



With the advent of radio broadcasting, music could be brought live directly into the home. WGY Schenectady was one of the earliest stations to be received in Afton. The Rice String Ensemble performed in 1925. (Picture from "WGY-Up the Years from '22". Published 1947. Afton Town Historian)



Afton bandstand planned in 1876 and removed in 1941. A replica was built at Caswell Park as a U.S. Bicentennial project in 1976. (Postcard from Chamberlin family. Afton Historical Society)

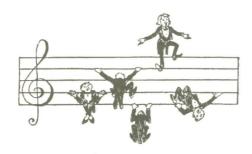


Russ Nygren and his Jazz Band Ball played in the replica of the old bandstand in Caswell Park for Arts and Crafts Days in 1991. (Photo from Afton Historical Society)



Afton High School orchestra about 1930. Front row: Ralph Sullivan, Hollis Barre, Wesley Hulbert, Larry Estes. Middle row: Rex Tracy, Hillis Craig, Gertrude Pixley, Mary Zeh, Thelma Jeffers. Back row: Clifford Palmer, Louis Pierce, ?????, Doris Goodnough. (Picture from Afton Historical Society)





Orchestra at Afton High School in 1966.

Row 1: J. Funnel, L. Comings, S. Weeks, J. Polomaro, D. Mulwane.

Row 2: K. Pforter, K. Earl, D. Eldred, M. Wolcott, S. Bickford, C. Weeks, J. Shupe.

Row 3: Mr. Nygren, P. Connors, J. Baker, F. Connors, S. Butler, S. Orr, E. Wolcott.

Row 4: S. Sickler, S. Covey, E. Andersen, D. Nygren, S. Comings, A. Davey, J. Edwards.

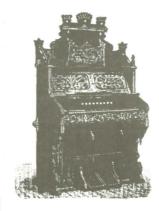
(Picture from 1966 Yearbook. Afton Historical Society)

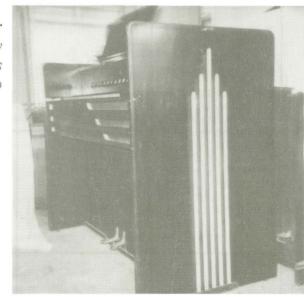


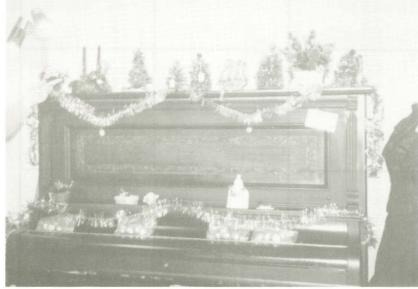


This Estey reed organ was purchased by Belzoni Wood of Melondy Hill on March 29, 1894 from W.G. Bolt of Deposit. It was given to the Afton Museum by Thelma Brown, sister of Florence Brown Wood. (Picture by Charles Decker)

Art Deco reed organ with original motor to pump the bellows. Made by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, VT, it was owned by Mildred Bisbee Decker. (Photo by Charles Decker)







Piano formerly owned by Goldie Pratt when she lived in the house which is now the Afton Museum. It was given to the Museum by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Russ. Here it is decorated for a Sugar Plum Fest in 1989. (Photo from Afton Historical Society)

Daisy Hurd Decker playing hymns at the Susquehanna Nursing Home in Johnson City at about the time of her 103rd birthday. She was a long-time Afton resident. (Photo from Charles Decker)









Lu B. Cake, an Iowa native, married Ella June Mead of Afton. Together, they traveled through the Northeast giving entertainments. Lu B. Cake composed some music, but his little songbook for the Independent Order of Red Men used his words set to familiar tunes such as "Marching Through Georgia". (Picture from "The Devil's Tea-table" by Lu B. Cake, 1896.





J. Hollister Barre was a resident of Afton. In 1906, the year that he graduated from Afton High School, he composed "Class Reception Two Step". Other music composed by him was "Cathedral Chimes", "Catching Fire-Flies", "Cupid's Dream", "The Quarrel and Make-Up", "Can I Forget", "Harmonie", and "My Prayer". (Sheet music from Afton Historical Society)



Afton Band on Memorial Day, May 30, 1927. (Photo from Daisy Hurd Decker album)





Not only did guest bands play for Afton parades, but Afton bands also were guests in parades in other towns. Here, the Afton Citizens Band marches in Cobleskill in June, 1912. (Picture from Chamberlain Collection. Afton Historical Society)



The Endicott Fife and Drum Corps played for the parade to celebrate the Centennial of the Town of Afton on July 13, 1957. (Photo by Tom Neal. Afton Historical Society)



Afton Central School Band in Memorial Day parade in 2000. Director Christopher Luttinger. (Photo by Charles Decker)



Pat Stafford and Erwin Smith playing for a party at the Afton Grange Hall for Clarence and Mildred Munyan, newlyweds, 1988. (Photo from Afton Historical Society)



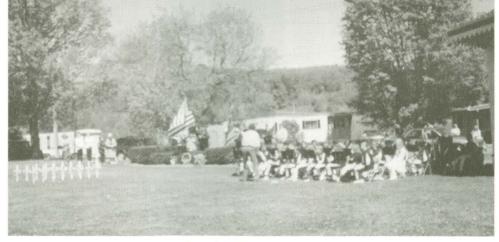


Our own talented musicians play for many local events. Here, Pat Stafford and Helen Di Bernardo play for a Christmas party at the Tempting Dish restaurant in 1988. (Photo from Afton Historical Society)



Two guitarists play for visitors to the Arts and Crafts Days, 1988. (Photo from Afton Historical Society)





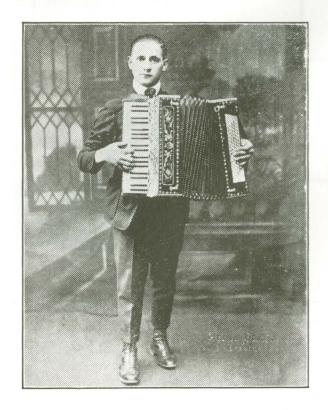
Memorial Day service at Caswell Park with Afton Central School Band participating. Christopher Luttinger, Leader. (Photo by Charles Decker)



Clayton Lampham's Band with Miss Elizabeth Roderick as vocal soloist appeared at the Afton Fair several years, including 1926. (Picture from Afton Fair Premium Book, 1926)

The most noted band to play at the Afton Fair was that of Edwin Franklin Goldman. His band appeared in 1936 and 1937. He was the successor of John Philip Sousa. (Picture from Afton Fair Premium Book, 1937. Afton Historical Society)

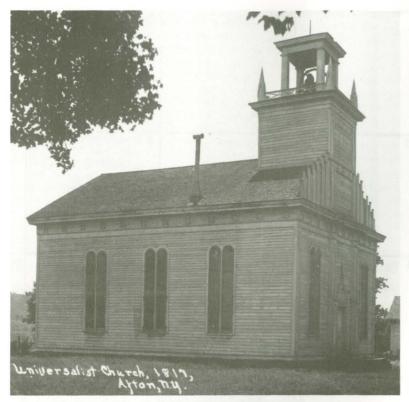




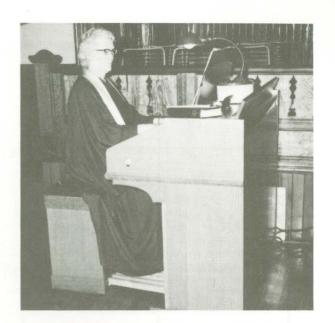
Alfonse De Giso played accordion and piano every afternoon at the Afton Fair in 1919. The fair then ran for days in September. (Picture from Afton Fair Premium Book, 1919)



Local musicians, the Lockwood Mountain Boys performed at the Afton Fair in 1981. Left to right: Timothy, Jonathan, Jeff and Mary Lockwood. (Picture from Afton Fair Premium Book, 1981. Afton Historical Society)

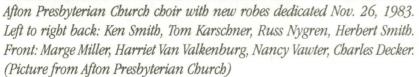


Built as a Union church building by Presbyterians and Universalists in 1818, this old building still stands on Afton's East Side. It had the first pipe organ in town and its bell sounded over the village as did those of the other churches. This bell is now in the tower of the North Afton Methodist Church. Picture about 1913. (Photo from the Julian A. Campbell Collection. Afton Historical Society)



Marion Wylie at the oran of the Afton Methodist Church in 1961. She was a piano teacher for many years with one Steinway grand piano for her students and one for her personal use. (Picture from Afton Historical Society)









The new Allen organ being installed in the Afton Presbyterian Church on June 17, 1990. (Photo from Frank Peters. Afton Presbyterian Church)



Afton School graduations always had musical selections. In 1902, Miss Flora Barber sang the vocal waltz "Resting", accompnaied by Mrs. Philetus A. Hayes. Mrs. Hayes received a Doctorate in Music from Brown University and introduced music teaching into the Afton schools. She also taught singing classes. (Picture from Afton High School Catalogue. 1902-1903. Afton Historical Society)

Martha Harris and Russell Nygren, music teachers at Afton Central School in 1966. (Picture from 1966 Yearbook. Afton Historical Society)





Faculty member Francis Sullivan with his string bass. He often played other instruments at area establishments for the dancing pleasure of patrons. (Picture from 1969 Yearbook. Afton Historical Society)



Triple Trio at Afton Central School in 1970. Row 1: K. Karschner, P. Clark, B. Snyder. Row 2: S. Case, K. Wilcox, B. Gifford. Row 3: C. Lerwick, J. Ingraham, N. Dutcher. (Picture from 1970 Yearbook. Afton Historical Society)



Community choruses have given performances over many years, especially at Christmas and Easter time. Gilbert Clark led an Afton group in Handel's "Messiah" in both 1964 and 1965. (Program from Gilbert Clark)



George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

presented by

AFTON COMMUNITY CHORUS Gilbert Clark, Conductor

+++++

SOLOISTS

Marriet Rolin ... Soprano

Judith Vail......Alto

Allan Crabb.....Tenor

J Lee Flynn.....Bass

+++++

Donald Pickens.....Organist Roberta Cummings...Accompanist

+++++

Afton Methodist Church Afton, New York May 23, 1965 8:15 P.M. The All Church Choir of Afton has sung for several seasons under the direction of Phyllis Lake. This concert took place on April 8, 2001. (Program from Charles Decker)

ALL CHURCH CHOIR OF AFTON Passion Sunday 2001 United Methodist Church of Afton

ORGAN PRELUDE

INTROIT

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

The Choir

J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mr. Tony Hipes

Leader: O come let us worship and bow down; People: Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

Leader: For he is our God,

People: And we are the people of His pasture, the sheep of his hand.

HYMN OF PRAISE

All Glory Laud and Honor

All Glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King, To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went; Our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.

Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son, Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One! To Thee, before Thy Passion, They sang their hymns of praise; To Thee, now high exalted, Our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring, Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King! All glory, laud, and honor To Thee, Redeemer, King, To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring!

SALUTATION AND WELCOME

Rev. Mr. Hipes

COLLECT FOR PASSION SUNDAY

Unison

Almighty and ever living God, who gave your son to be a leader and servant of humanity, grant that as he entered Jerusalem to suffer and die for us, we may enter his world, follow his example, and, by his power, live in obedience to you, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:1-4

Rev. Mr. Douglas Horne

The Afton Historical Society Remembers...

CHILDREN AND TOYS

CALENDAR FOR

2

0

0

3



Little Miss
Jones in
World War I
Red Cross
uniform.
The doll
house
furn iture
was hers.
AHS.

Three story doll house given to the Afton Museum by the Treasure Chest store. AHS. Collection of doll furniture which belonged to little Miss Jones of Binghamton. Gift from Edmund and Louella Ennis. AHS.

CHILDREN AND TOYS

Forever and ever, children have had toys to play with. They range from primitive, hand-made ones to the latest high-tech ones which are advertized irresistibly over television.

The earliest mention of toys which I have discovered in Afton is in the memoirs of Melissa Landers Wilkins, born March 9, 1810. She grew up on the East Side near Middlebridge. Her parents were Isaiah and Thirza Phelps Landers, from the family of earliest settlers.

Melissa found a stone in the creek, wrapped it in a piece of cloth, and had herself a doll. There being a few Indians still living in the woods, one of them observed the child playing with this stone doll. Wishing to please her, he made a doll out of wood and painted the face with berry juices. Melissa was delighted to have a real doll.

An old Indian named Kunkerpot drew Melissa to school on a hand sled during the winter. So sleds were not only early toys but also a means of transportation. Later, the Gilbert Sled Factory in Bainbridge provided enjoyment for many children.

Another very early toy was the rattle. Some eighteenth century portraits of children show them holding fancy silver ones with bells, a whistle, and a piece of coral on the end for teething. These were often given as christening gifts. The one pictured in this calendar was purchased at an auction on Melondy Hill.

Commercially made dolls have always been popular. Most of those in the Afton Museum were collected by Isabelle Seely Jennings, an Afton native. Several older residents gave her some very fine early 19th century dolls. Later, younger people, who had seen her collection, sent her additional dolls found on their travels. They represent may countries of the world.

Games of all sorts are found in the Afton Museum. Checker boards, wooden jig-saw puzzle maps, bubble pipes, harmonicas, baseballs and mitts - all have found a home here as gifts from interested

donors.

Many doll dishes and utensils have survived and spark the interest of visitors, young and old. Some of them have come from Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Jacob. Wayne's mother was Leone Jacob of Tunnel. When attending Afton High School, she boarded at what is now the Afton Museum, then the home of her aunt and uncle, Gaylord and Mercy Stowell Hull. Many of the doll dishes and toys donated by them belonged to "Aunt Mercy" when she was young. The Stowells were also an early family in Afton.

Children's clothing tells a story of its wearers. In the 19th century, dress clothing was very elaborate with lots of ribbon and lace decoration. Even the boys of the period wore dresses or kilts and had long curls. My father, Bernett Decker, wore long curls until he was nine. His twin sister Bernice had straight hair, so needed to have her hair done up on rags to achieve similar curls.

Christening dresses were about three times the length of the child being baptized. They were made for show, with fine needlework and handmade lace. Often they were used for several generations.

Pull toys were especially popular with boys. Wagons, sleds, Disney characters and others are pictured in the calendar. In the Museum Barn are some larger hand sleds plus other winter items such as skis and ice skates. In former years, the Susquehanna River froze solid so that skating was popular. Tales of sledding non-stop from High Street down almost to the river are told by old-timers.

A focus of the Afton Museum is the furnished doll house. The furniture came from one source and is about eighty years old. The doll house came from another source and is perfect for the furniture.

Toys reflect, in miniature, life as it was lived in the past. These photographs, taken professionally by John Marano, help to expand our history.

By Charles J. Decker Afton Town and Village Historian



Adult cousin Cassius Fox in toy wagon pulled by Ellery Keith Decker and Bernett Hurd Decker. August 1916.

From Daisy Hurd Decker album.



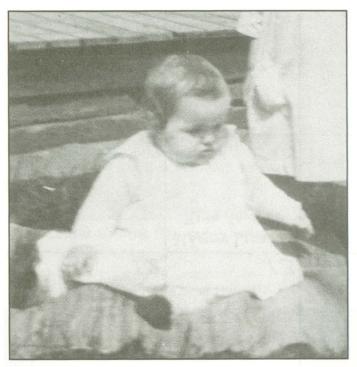
Mickey Mouse pull toy. Owned by Charles Decker.



Stuffed animals on sled given by Walter Rose. All from AHS.

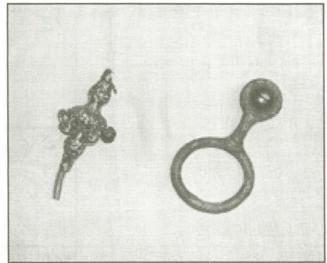


Sled made from Bon Ami box by Frank H. Decker. Owned by Charles Decker. Sock doll. Isabella Jennings Collection. Gift from Edna Morrison. (AHS).

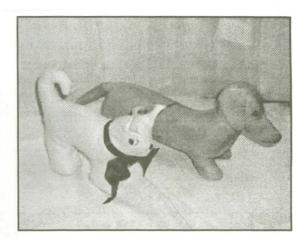


Lynnette Loomis Baciuska as a baby.

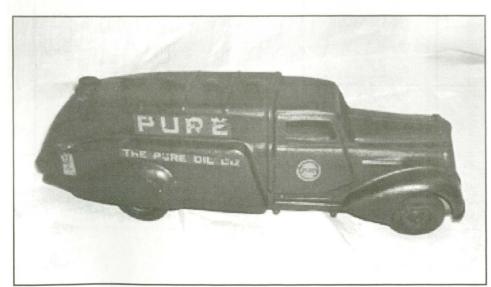
Picture from Lynnette.



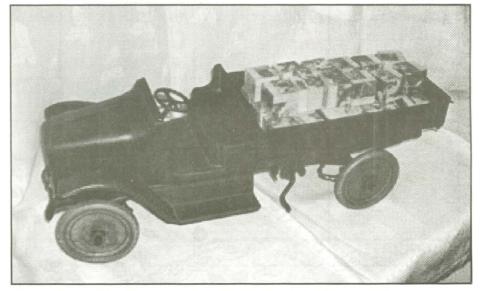
Victorian silver rattle with bells, whistle, and teether of red coral. From sale at former Maggie O'Brien home. Owned by Charles Decker. Rubber teething ring with bell. From Mildred Scott. (AHS).



Bessie's Cat. Made by Elizabeth Wood for daughter Bess Wood Mason. From Mildred Scott. (AHS). Stuffed dog with faded autographs. (AHS).



Pure Oil Company delivery truck owned by Charles Decker.



Buddy L dumptruck owned by Charles Decker. Circa 1930. Loaded with wooden picture blocks. Belonged to Eliza Benedict Packer, grandmother of Mildred Scott. (AHS).



Infant son of Nellie Skillman Crain and Joseph Henry Crain. Mr. Crain was owner of the "Afton Enterprise" in the early 20th century.

From album of Daisy Hurd Decker.



Stencilled, white child's bib apron. (AHS).



Christening dress of William Hawke who was baptized at the Nineveh Presbyterian Church. Gift of Bonnie Howe Vartanian (Cousin of Bill) (AHS).



Blue velvet sailor suit which belonged to John Bates, son of Rear Admiral Alexander Bates and Fannie Bates, cousin of Daisy Hurd Decker. (AHS).

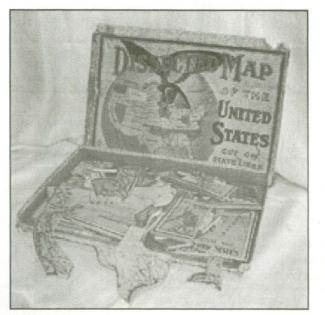


White dress with blue and white crochet. Made for Harriet Carr Van Valkenburg. (AHS).



Florence and Aftona Stanbro on the porch of what is now known as the Whitman Block. Their father was then principal of Afton High School.

From album of Daisy Hurd Decker.



Wooden jig-saw map of the United States. From Mildred Scott. (AHS).



African American babies in basket. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift of E.N. West. (AHS).



Clear pattern glass sugar and creamer. (AHS). Red enameled silverware carrier with toy pewter knives, forks and spoons. Owned by Charles Decker.

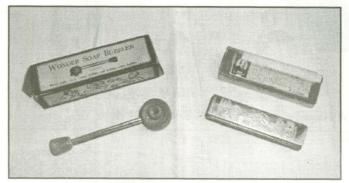
Aluminum knives, forks and spoons from Mildred Scott. (AHS).



Three boys of the Lyons family, relatives of Irene Shapley Reiling. From album at AHS. They hold a baseball bat, ball and a hoop.



Baseball used in the Afton-Windsor High School game on June 13, 1930. Afton was victor. From John Gregg. (AHS). Early catchers' mitts. (AHS).



Bubble pipe from Harriet Carr Van Valkenburg (AHS). M. Hohner harmonica played by Carl Scott. Gift from his daughter Mildred Scott. (AHS).



Two glass marbles. (AHS). Three wooden tops owned by Charles Decker.



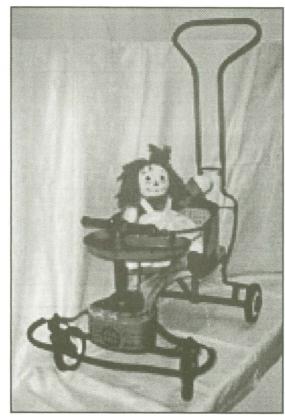
Joyce Tiffany with cat in doll carriage. She was a neighbor of Frank and Daisy Decker.

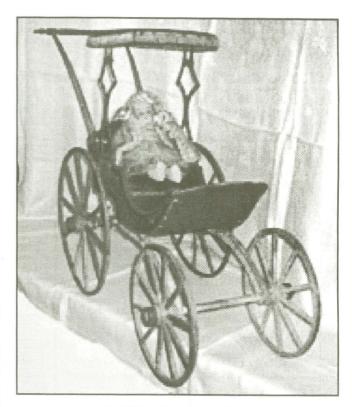
From album of Daisy Hurd Decker.



Raymond Frank Decker in rocking horse used by his father Bernett H. Decker and his brothers and sisters. Now enjoyed by Ray's grandchildren.

From album of Daisy Hurd Decker.





Doll in blue dress. Isabelle Jennings collection. (AHS).

Doll carriage given by Frances Deming Wrench. (AHS).

Baby stroller with Raggedy Ann doll. (AHS).



Goldie Goodnough, later Van Valkenburg and Pratt, and Cleon Goodnough as Goldie holds her doll. She was twelve and he was four.



Large paper doll given to Mildred Scott about 1917 by Aunt Hattie Scott. (AHS).



China head doll in lace trimmed flower print. China head doll in purple coat. One and two belong to Julia Webster. Gifts from Mary Webster Fisher. Early 19th century doll.

All from Isabelle Jennings collection. (AHS).



Four ethnic dolls. Moroccan from Elinor Whitson, Russian from Mrs. Dan Framling, Mexican from Mrs. Hiller, Guatemalan from Helen Church. Isabelle Jennings collection. (AHS).



Amy and Elsie Way. Elsie was later Mrs. Archie Gunn. (AHS).



Indian boy. Isabelle Jennings collection. (AHS). Indian girl, Hindu. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift of missionary, Miss C.M. Saunders. (AHS).



Chinese girl and old man. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift from Jane. (AHS, 1932).



Native American female and male. Isabelle Jennings collection. Female gift of Jane, 1930. Male gift of Mildred Merrell, 1931. (AHS).



Florence Brown (later Mrs. Robert Wood) and Thelma Brown at their parents' diner on the site of the present NBT ATM drive-through.



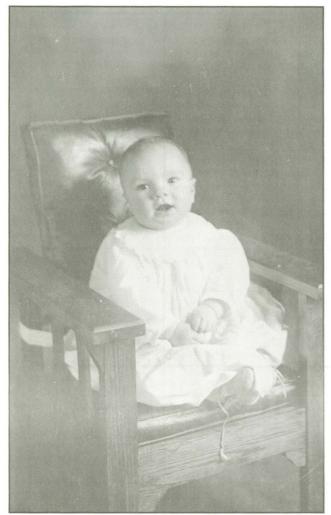
Doll in striped dress, cap and apron. Isabelle Jennings collection. (AHS). White tea set from Mercy Hull collection. (AHS). Table owned by Charles Decker.



China head doll which belonged to Julia Webster. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift from Mary Webster Fisher. (AHS). Miniature tea set. Belonged to Mildred Scott. (AHS). Table owned by Charles Decker.



Miniature cast iron cook stove. Owned by Charles Decker. Cast iron cooking utensils. From Mercy Hull collection. (AHS).

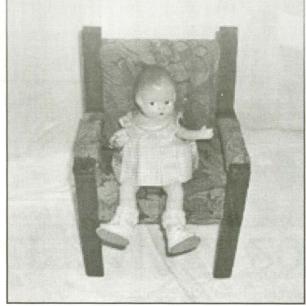


Alden Arthur Mudge, Jr., at age 6 months, sitting in child's Morris chair.

From album of Daisy Hurd Decker.

Oak upholstered chair made by Frank and Daisy Decker. Owned by Charles Decker. "Patsyette", Eff an Bee doll. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift from E. McCartney, 1935. (AHS).





Child's rocker. Gift of Mary and Ernest Leal. (AHS). Modern doll in flowing dress. (AHS).



Pink enamel high chair. From Presbyterian rummage sale. (AHS).

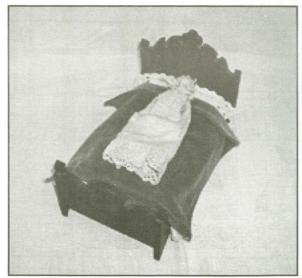
Antoinette from Paris. Les Poupees Raynol. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift from Mrs. Minnie McDonald, 1930. (AHS).



Lizzie Haven Decker, age 10, and Ruth Haven Beatman, age 4. Daughters of Lawyer George Haven and his wife Addie. Pictures from Haven album. Owned by Charles Decker.



Leather covered doll trunk with old doll skirt and doll quilt made by Mary Sackett for granddaughter Harriet Carr Van Valkenburg. (AHS).



Walnut bed with velvet cover. Owned by Charles Decker.

Baby doll with long dress. Isabelle Jennings collection. (AHS).



Red print childs dress. (AHS).



Four poster cord bedstead owned by Charles Decker.

Doll quilt made by Mary Sackett for grand-daughter Harriet Carr Van Valkenburg. (AHS). Rag doll made by a "blind buddy". Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift from Jessie McHugh. (AHS).



Nellie Merrell and daughter Mildred. Nellie was telephone central for years and Mildred was Postmaster.

From album of Daisy Hurd Decker.



Shirley Temple. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift of Emma Austin, 1936. (AHS).



Old woman in a shoe with children. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift from Eula Johnston. (AHS).



The Dionne Quintuplets, born in 1934, were the first quintuplets to survive. Isabelle Jennings collection. Gift from Jane McLaughlin. (AHS).

The Afton Historical Society Remembers...

Then



and



Now

The old wooden building which stood on the site of the present brick blocks on the west side of Main Street burned on February 24, 1888. It had been the store of Merlin Jackson, in partnership with Joseph Chaffee. Many businesses and organizations have occupied the brick buildings. The hotel at left was the old Sullivan House which burned in 1877.

(Picture from Afton Historical Society)

Calendar for 2004





THEN AND NOW: CHANGE IN AFTON TOWN AND VILLAGE

It is said that former residents returning to their hometown most readily see the changes which have taken place over the years. Permanent residents do not so easily perceive gradual change.

There is little in the Village of Afton that residents of 1880 would now recognize. Fires in 1884 and 1888 destroyed almost all of the then business section, resulting in the present brick business blocks. Landmarks, such as the Pollard mansion, the Musson House hotel, and the original Sullivan House hotel had burned previously. Before the establishment of Afton's water system in 1895, there was little that could be done to stop a fire already in progress.

Progress also brings about change. School buildings are added onto or torn down to make way for modern needs. Older business blocks are razed to make way for the new. An example is the site of the Great American grocery store and the Homeward Bound Video store.

Transportation makes drastic changes. The building of Interstate Highway 88 wiped out entire farmsteads and made others inoperable as dairy farms by dividing the land. Shoppers for goods and services may now speed east or west, north or south, to larger supermarkets and chain stores several miles away. Small family operated stores can seldom survive.

In previous years, there were several gas stations and repair garages in and near the village. Now gasoline can be purchased at only two convenience stores. In the 1940's, there were five grocery stores. Today there is only the Great American.

Another change is the tree growth. The older pictures have mature shade trees with a clear view of buildings. Today, shorter, denser shrubs and trees obscure many views. The hillsides and tops, once open fields and pastures, are now covered by second growth trees.

The pictures of this calendar record some of these changes. In some cases there is no building on a formerly occupied site, there is something entirely new on the site, or the former buildings have been drastically changed in appearance. These changes bring a new look to the sites. We can be certain that such changes will continue into the future.

-Prepared by Charles J. Decker, Afton Town and Village Historian



This old house was the Presbyterian Manse until 1939 when it was sold. Glenn Russ dismantled the building and used the lumber to build his new house on the Russ farm on Long Hill Road. The site is now the lawn of the David Dawson property and adjoining the David Mandyck property.

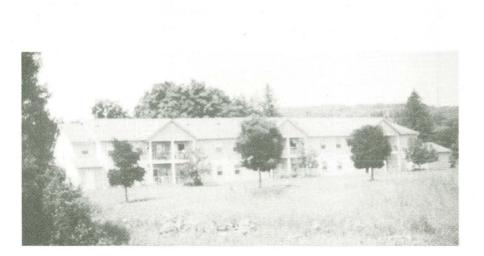
(Picture from Town Historian)







The old barn of the Holmes Brothers burned about 1920. It was replaced by another which was razed when owned by Shod Decker to provide the site for Afton Edge Apartments. The road then turned to go under the D&H tracks, recrossing near Afton Lake. (Picture from Margaret McCulley. Afton Historical Society)





"The Mansion" home of the Pollard family, stood about where Maple Avenue now runs under the D&H underpass and near the Sunshine Hill Flower Shop. It burned in 1876. Members of the Pollard family are seen on the porch. Today, what is now Sunshine Hill, owned by Linda Buman, was once a car wash and then the Tempting Dish Restaurant, owned by Sally Muller. (Picture from Ernest Poole. Town Historican)





The steel bridge over the Susquehanna was built in 1904-05, a very cold winter. The older suspension bridge, built in 1868, appears behind the new one. The present concrete bridge was opened in 1948 and does not have impeding superstructure. (Picture from Pomeroy glass plate collection. Afton Historical Society)





The Albany and Susquehanna Railroad (later the Delaware & Hudson) reached Afton in 1867 when the station was built. It stood nearer to Maple Avenue and had tracks on both sides. To become the River Club Restaurant, it was moved back and to the river bank and is now a popular eating place. A gazebo extends out to the water's edge. (Photo from Julian A. Campbell Collection. Afton Historical Society)





The house where the Afton Post Office is now located was once the home of Britton Whitaker, a cooper. Later the Sicklers had an antique shop there. It was razed to make way for the new Post Office which was moved from what is now a part of Vincent's Restaurant. (Picture from Town Historian)





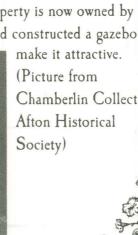
James and Cornelius Nickerson built this double house on Main Street in 1876, The Nickersons were hop growers on their farm which extended up to High Street. Sisters Grace Church and Carrie Talbott boarded school teachers there later. It was then owned by Carol Vail and then by Robert Ashley before being torn down in the 1960's. The Afton Community Center, Afton Free Library, and Village Offices are housed in the new building. (Picture from Chamberlin Collection. Afton Historical Society)





This imposing house was built on Main Street in 1889 by Nelson Barton, editor of the "Afton Enterprise". He named it "Walnut Place" for a large tree in the yard. In later years it was occupied by Caracciolos and Latimers. It burned in the mid-1990's. The property is now owned by Mark Strong who has planted the vacant lot and constructed a gazebo to

(Picture from Chamberlin Collection. Afton Historical





Eli Mackley's blacksmith shop occupied the site of the home of Tony and Helen Kane. The shop was moved down toward the river and is now a residence. Main Street was paved to this point about 1914. (Picture from Chamberlin Collection. Afton Historical Society)







Main Street at the intersection of Route 7 and 41. The Xtra Mart convenience store is now in the site. The first house was moved to its present site between Academy Street and Caswell Street, just below the school. It is dark red. The D&H under pass had not yet been built. (Picture from Town Historian)

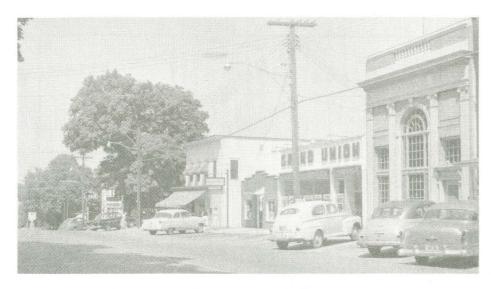


The intersection of Main Street and Caswell Streets. The band pagoda was built in 1876. The replica, built in 1976, now stands in Foster Park. Secor's gas station can be seen behind it and Doolittle Brothers gas station is at the right. Today the Xtra Mart is at the left, an empty repair garage at the right, and the triangle, with two monuments, is the annual site of the Sertoma Christmas tree. (Picture from the Chamberlin Collection. Afton Historical Society)

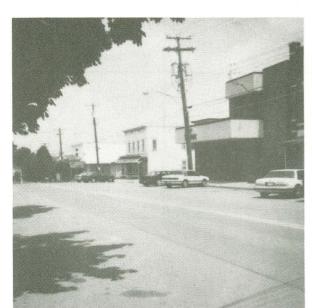




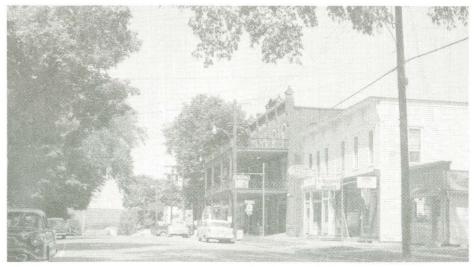




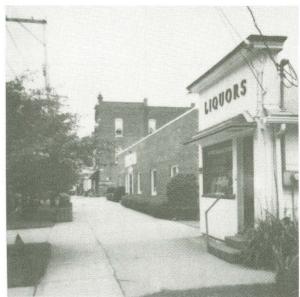
In the 1950's, Karschner's Dress Shop and Funeral Home occupied the building where the Afton Nuresery School and the Guy legal office are now located. James Ernstron Insurance and Ken Smith's Barber Shop shared the small building. The Grand Union store burned in November about 1969, prematurely roasting the supply of turkeys. The classic facade of the First National Bank was added to an older build-



ing in 1928 and was again changed in 1972 when it became NBT. The small building was removed to make way for the new drive-through and ATM lanes. (Picture from Margaret Guy. Afton Historical Society)



The old brick Village hall, formerly a hotel, and the wooden blocks were replaced by what is now the Homeward Bound Video store. The small building which is now the Afton Liquor Store remains, but was once a barber shop. The Afton Free Library and Police Department were once in the new building as was the Village Office. The Great American Store is in the back of the complex. (Picture from Margaret Guy. Afton Historical Society)





Home of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Smith on site of present parking lot of the Afton Hose Company. Mr. Smith had a harness shop across the street on the site of St. Agnes Church. (Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album)



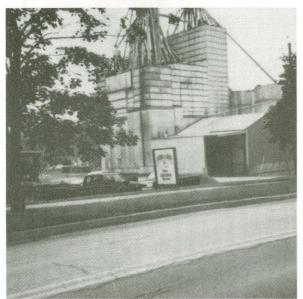


Rufus Smith owned the harness shop across Spring Street from the present fire station. The Smiths lived directly across the street where the parking lot of Afton Hose Company is now located. Dr. Philetus Hayes lived in what is now the Alton Jenks house across Academy Street. St. Agnes Church, built in 1949 is on the site of the harness shop. (Picture from Town Historian)



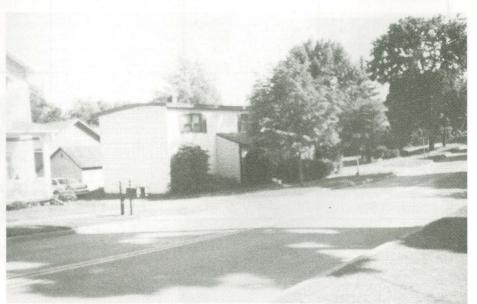


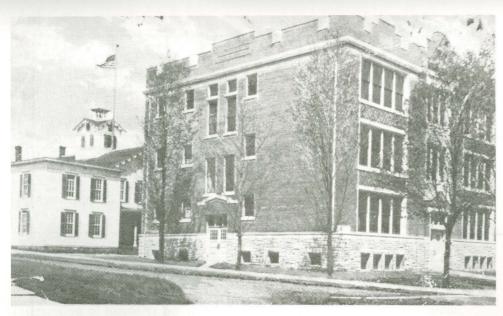
The M.J. Mudge & Son Feed Store was first owned by C.G. Brooks. Later it became A.A. Mudge & Sons. Soon after the business was sold to McDowell & Walker, the old building burned and has been replaced with a complex of metal structures. (Picture from Afton Historical Society)





Site of Briggs Lumber Company with large opening for scale building. The coal silo can be seen at top left. Afton Museum at far right. The scale shed has been closed in and offices been constructed, but are unoccupied now. The storage sheds to the right were removed and Ernestine Bucking once had the Afton Mall there. A laundromat and apartments are now behind, adjoining a parking space. (Picture from Afton Historical Society)





The old Afton Academy and Union School in back and the brick High School built in 1908. Additions of 1928 were recently razed and a large new wing was opened in the fall of 2002. The new part extends to the right of the building in the old picture and is very handsome in its accommodations. (Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album)





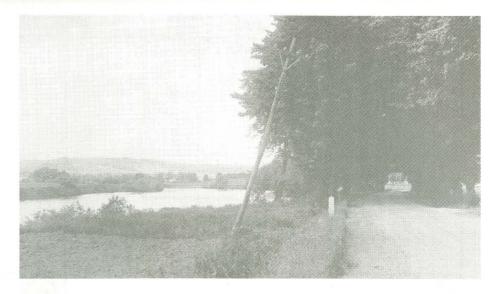


The house on East Main Street, once owned by Hattie Swart, stood empty and boarded up for many years. In 1999, the congregation of the Higher Ground Christian Church purchased the property, razed the house, and built a new church building back from the street. (Picture by Town Historian)





Intersection of Route 41 South and East Main Street, from Maple Avenue. Building at left was home of Mamie Brown, later Dr. Asa Legg. It and another owned by Will and Jessie Seeley were removed to make way for the ramp for I-88. Newer trees obscure the remaining buildings. A music store is now in the old Gregory Store building. (Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album)



The tunnel of maple trees which once lined Route 41 just south of the fairgrounds. The driveway of what was then the Fred Chamberlin farm is on the right. The trees were removed when the road was raised and widened. Today, John Pierce's fine field of corn is on the right. Later tree growth obscures the view of the Susquehanna. (Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album)









The old Maple Avenue approach to the steel bridge over the Susquehanna. The watchman's shanty for the grade crossing is at the left. A creamary occupied the far right building. Clark Horton is said to have begun his business in the nearer building before building his large hardware store facing Main Street in 1906. G.L.F., then Agway, were on the far corner and Raymon Birdsall once operated a garage where the Ford sign is. Today, the expanded Horton Hardware occupies all of the area on the right. (Picture from Thelma Brown. Afton Historical Society)





This house, located on Route 7 between Afton and Nineveh, was built by a member of the Chamberlin family. In the 1980's a propane truck making a delivery caught fire and the house burned. A mobile home with additions has replaced it. (Picture from the Chamberlin Collection. Afton Historical Society)





Nineveh Junction was where the Jefferson Branch joined the Delaware & Hudson Railroad to bring coal from Pennsylvania for shipment to points east. The Central Hotel is the only remaining building from the old picture. It is now owned by Bob Harvey. (Picture from Town Historian)





The hamlet of Bettsburg on Route 41 south of Afton, the earliest settlement in the town., There was once a store, post office, cheese factory, inn and doctor's office here. The large house was built by Enos Johnston in 1876. The Cross family now lives there. The only surviving buildings

from the old picture are the large residence and the earlier tenant house behind it. (Picture from Chamberlin Collection.

Afton Historical Society)



The Afton Historical Society Remembers... Afton's Scenic Places Calendar for 2005

ABOUT THE FRONT COVER: A wooden dam, apparently in Bump Creek, just above the old bridge at the top of Spring Street, leading to Long Hill. It was one of two which washed out in July, 1902 with the loss of three lives. This picture, from Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rowe shows an idyllic spot.

Afton's Scenic Spots

Afton, named for the poem "Afton Water" by Robert Burns, is situated in the beautiful Susquehanna River Valley. Derived from the local Indian language, Susquehanna is said to mean "Crooked River". The twists and turns are evident in some of the panoramic views around Afton.

Several early accounts mention the area where Afton, settled in 1786, is now located. The Rev. Gideon Hawley, a missionary from Stockbridge, Mass., came through on the way to Old Onaquaga in 1753. He mentioned the Indian village Cunahunta, located on this site, but he did not describe it.

In 1769, Richard Smith and Robert Wells of Burlington, N.J., visited William Cooper of Cooperstown and passed through here on the way home. Smith mentioned Cunahunta as having four or five houses with fine islands and lowlands.

In 1770, the Rev. William Johnston, settler at present Sidney, traveled through to Old Onaquaga (Windsor area) and mentioned the crops of the Indian residents.

In October of 1778, Col. William Butler, on a raid from Schoharie to Unadilla, and then to Old Onaquaga, burned houses and corn at Cunahunta on October 7.

In 1779, General James Clinton and about 2000 troops, some of them in batteaux, arrived at Cunahunta on August 13 as part of the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition, ordered by General George Washington to eliminate the Indians of New York colony. They camped at the site destroyed by Col. Butler the fall before. Several soldiers wrote of the abandoned cultivated islands and the presence of apple trees.

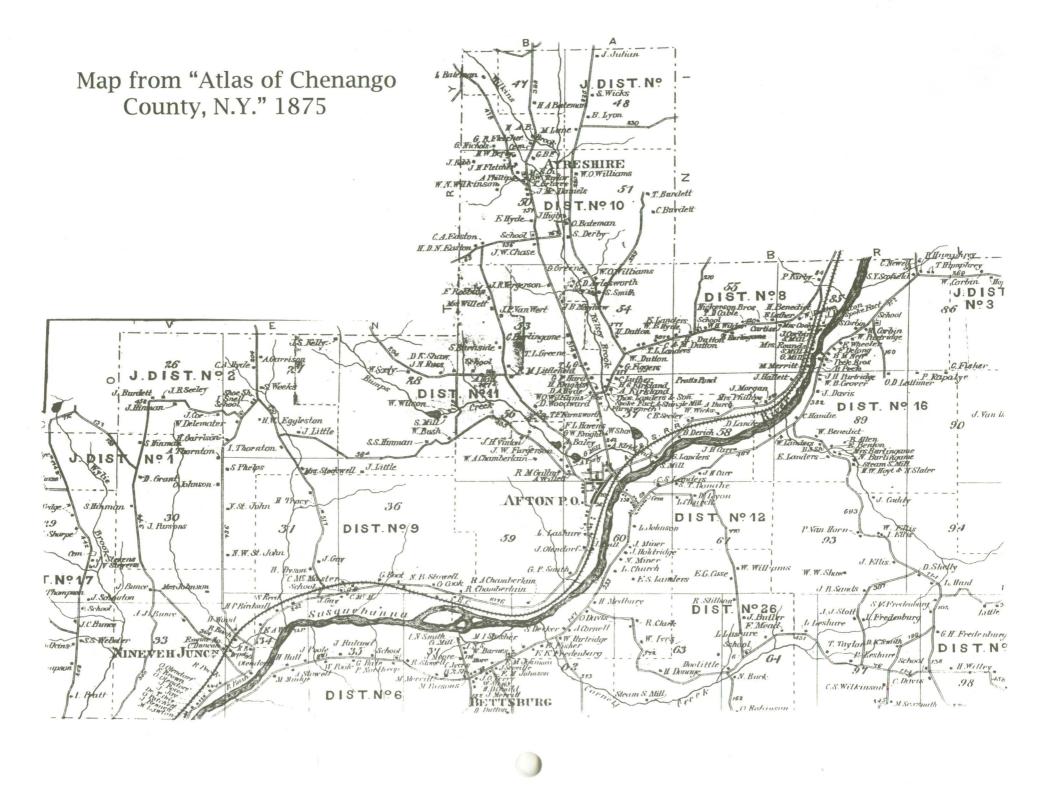
This was the environment which greeted the first settlers such as the Landers and Stowell families in 1786. The clearing of land, building of mills and bridges, and the erection of homes created the setting for the scenic views in this calendar.

Picture postcards have come from several collections in the possession of the Afton Historical Society and the Town Historian. Snapshots have come from family albums.

Several of the postcards were published by Marshall G. Hill, former book dealer and owner of the Afton Inn. Some of the full page photographs were probably taken by professional photographers. Julian A. Campbell took many glass plate negatives which were in possession of his son, Bruce A. Campbell of Anchorage, Alaska. They have since been given to the Bradford County Historical Society in Towanda, PA. The Afton Historical Society was able to acquire all 41 prints of Afton.

Aftonians hiked, picnicked, and relaxed at many of the sites which are pictured. Some of them, such as mills, were actual work sites, but are scenic, especially in retrospect.

Photographs, such as those looking across the valley from different directions, show how the once wooded hills were cleared and cropped, but now are reverting to woodlands. The building of railroads and highways has changed the landscape which had existed for centuries. New scenery is being created continually.





View looking up the Susquehanna from below the Afton Fairgrounds. It was a welcome cool spot on a hot day. (Picture from Chamberlin Collection, Afton Historical Society)

Same area looking down the Susquehanna River. The car is Mr. Campbell's 1911 Model T Ford Roadster. (Photo from Julian A. Campbell collection, Anchorage, Alaska. Afton Historical Society)



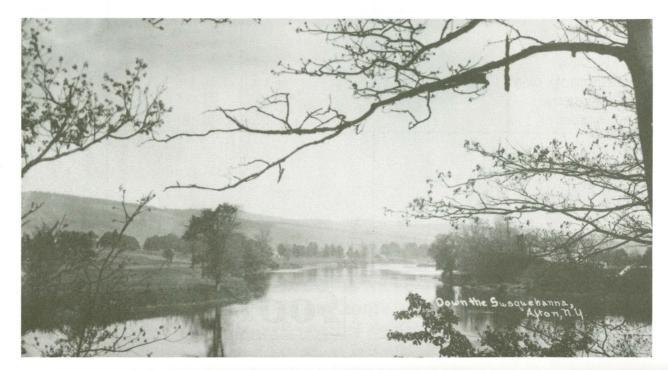


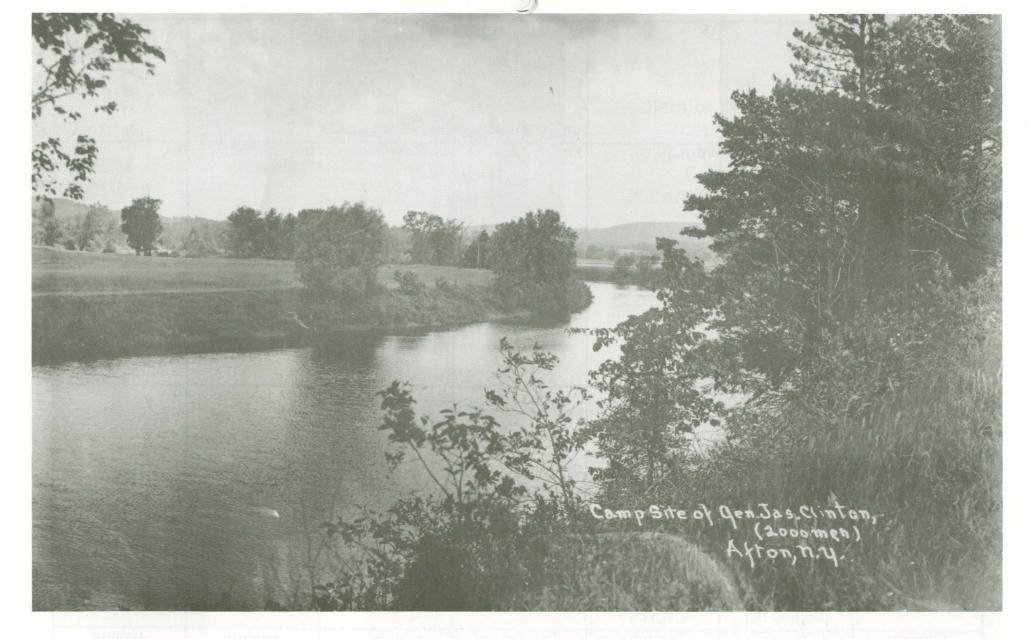
Hop poles stacked between seasons on the farm of James and Cornelius Nickerson. Looking down from above High Street. The large house at lower right was the Nickerson home, now the site of the Afton Community Center. (Picture from Afton Historical Society)



Bernice Decker, center, and friends bathing in the Susquehanna River back of the Decker homestead. (Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. 1918.)

Looking down the Susquehanna River below Afton. About 1913. (Picture from Julian A. Campbell collection. Anchorage Alaska. Afton Historical Society)





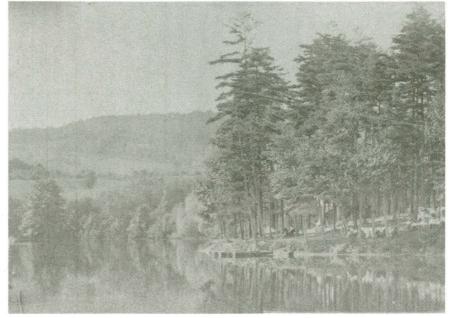
Campsite of 2,000 men of Gen. James Clinton's army during the American Revolution. Near Afton about 1913. (Picture from Julian A. Campbell collection. Anchorage, Alaska.

Afton Historical Society.)



Afton Lake under storm clouds. (Picture from Julian A. Campbell collection. Anchorage, Alaska. Afton Historical Society.)

In 1911, this area at Afton Lake was owned by Lewis H. Harris and it was quite a resort for outings. (Picture from Chamberlin collection. Afton Historical Society.)





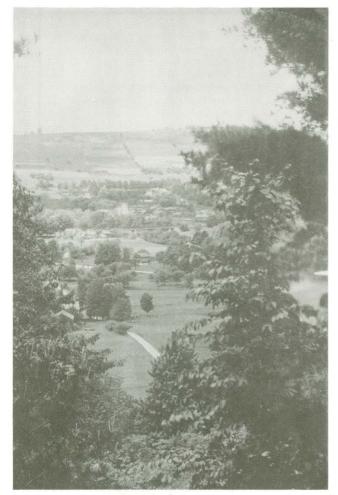
The old mill dam above Pixley's Mill on Bump Creek. The bridge leading to Long Hill Road is upstream and Glenwood Cemetery is above at the right. (Picture from Julian A. Campbell collection, Anchorage Alaska. Afton Historical Society)

The grist and cider mill of Asa B. Pixley on Bump Creek above the Village of Afton. The house at left is on upper Spring Street. (Picture from Afton Historical Society.)

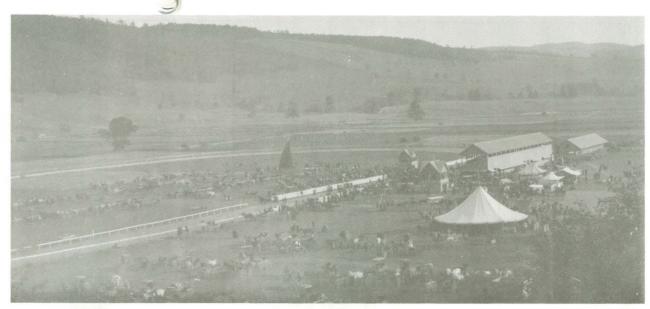
The Taft
Mill which
was once
a furniture
factory. It
collapsed into
the stream in
the flood of
July, 1902.
(Picture
from Afton
Historical
Society.)







View of Afton from the now closed Ox-Bow Road. The west hillside was then all cultivated fields. (Picture from Town Historian)



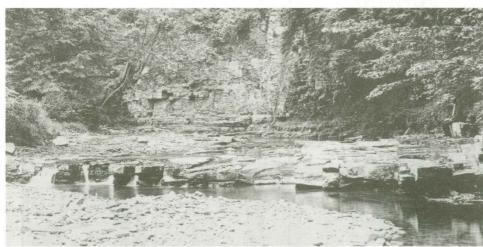
The Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association grounds about 1905. The merry-go-round is the sole ride. Interstate 88 now stretches across at the foot of the background hills. (Picture from Pomeroy glass plate. Afton Historical Society.)

Panoramic view of Afton showing the Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association grounds and race track. (Picture from Chamberlin collection. Afton Historical Society.)



The Springs House at Vallonia Springs, just over the line into the Town of Colesville. The mineral water in a pagoda-like shelter was considered to be healthful. This picture is thought to have been taken on the 50th wedding anniversary of owners Mr. and Mrs. James Sands. (Picture from Afton Historical Society.)





"The Rocks", here called "The Devil's Hole". Located on the Grover farm, it was once a favorite picnic site. It was also one of the digging sites of Joseph Smith, the Mormon founder. (Picture from Chamberlin Collection. Afton Historical Society.)



Idyllic picnic scene on East Side Susquehanna River bank. The first man sitting at the right is Lewis Fredenberg. (Picture from Town Historian.)



View across the valley with Afton Lake at the center. (Picture from Chamberlin collection. Afton Historical Society.)

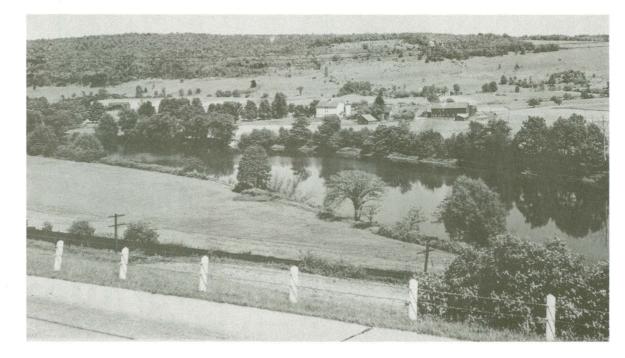
View across the valley from the old Ox-Bow Road. The west hill is cultivated to the top. (Picture from the Chamberlin collection. Afton Historical Society.)





View across the valley from Route 7 to just below Bettsburg. Some of the islands are visible. (Picture from Town Historian.)

View across the valley from Route 7, showing the Renner farm and the Grover farm, both now owned by Dale and Jennie Grover. (Picture from Celia Landers Liggett, Town Historian.)





Old bridge across Cornell Creek on the Decker farm at the end of Decker Road. The site is now within the right-of-way of Interstate 88. (Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album.)



The old suspension bridge across the Susquehanna River was one of Afton's most photographed structures. Built in 1868, it was replaced by the iron bridge in 1904-05. (Postcard from Chamberlin collection. Afton Historical Society.)

Bridge built privately on the George A. Johnson farm near Nineveh Junction. More recently it was the Artie Bouren place. (Picture from Olive Bassett collection. Afton Historical Society.)





Big snow of 1926. Druggist Henry Carr on top of pile. Herschel Slusser, No. 2; George Decker, No. 3; Frank Stanbro, No. 4. Kerosene lamp on pole in background. (Picture from Town Historian.)



Looking up present
Route 41 from in
front of the Decker
homestead toward the
former Arthur Grover
house, now owned by
the Greg Rutler family.
The maples are all
gone. (Picture from
Daisy Hurd Decker
Album.)



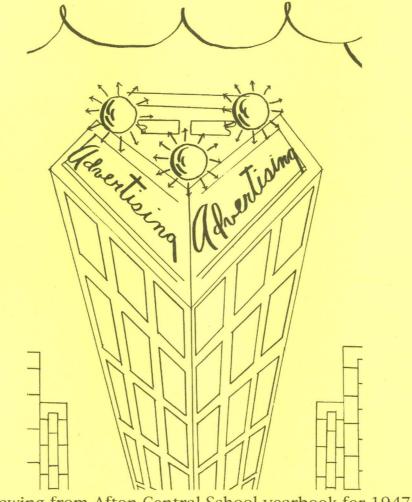
Adolphus Woodard shoveling some of the 1926 snow in front of Bert Lord's house, now owned by David Dawson. The house across Spring Street is the Herbig-Horne home. (Picture from Dr. John J. Francis album.)

The Afton Historical Society Remembers...

Advertizing in Afton

Names Preserved

Businesses, organizations and people of the past as recorded in advertizing in Afton publications.



Drawing from Afton Central School yearbook for 1947

Calendar for 2006

Advertizing in Afton



Before the days of air conditioning, hand held fans were provided in many public places such as churches. They made a convenient surface for advertizing.

Advertizing from a community can reveal a lot about people and customs, especially when examined over a period of years. The evolution of an economy from horse-drawn in the nineteenth century to the automobile age of the twentieth century is evident from the ads from almost a century. Sources for this calendar are from old calendars, Afton Fair Premium Books, the "Afton Enterprise", county directories, and actual artifacts.

Some artifacts from the Afton Historical Society have been photographed to help tell the story. Several items which would have been suitable for the calendar did not photograph well so had to be omitted, but printed ads represent the same businesses.

Souvenir items, match books, and blotters were common media for local ads. Everyone used matchbooks and blotters were on every desk until the advent of the ball-point pen. Businesses gave out souvenirs.

Some occupations such as blacksmiths and wagon-makers have all but disappeared with the decline of work horses. Horse-shoers are still in demand due to the number of horses which exceeds those in existence in New York State in the nineteenth century.

Due to the building of interstate highways, people can quickly drive for a distance to shop for their needs, formerly available in their own, mostly self-sufficient, home towns. Clothing stores, drugstores, and general stores are a thing of the past for villages such as Afton. Now one must go to a mall in a larger place to do much shopping. Much of the current merchandise there us produced over-seas.

By Charles J. Decker, Afton Town and Village Historian

P. A. HAYES, M. D.

Physician and Surgeon

Afton, N.Y.

1916

Office hours 12 to 2 p.m.

W. Lee Dodge, M. D.

AFTON, N.Y.

1916

Office hours

12 to 2 p. m.

Local doctors and dentists took care of the health needs of Afton residents.

When people died, the undertakers took care of their mortal bodies.

All ads from Afton Fair Premium Books except Dr. Johnson from 1940 Afton Enterprise and Dr. Ireland from Gazetteer & Business Directory of Chenango County by Childs, 1869-70.

Undertaking in all its branches. Most approved methods used. Considerate conscientious service rendered and no exhorbitant charges made. Lady assistant when desired.

Furniture Repaired. Pictures Framed Baby Carriage Wheels Retired.

B. A. GATES

1921

Modern Up-to-date Undertaking Department
Lady assissant when desired. Both phones. Day or night.

EARL J. BOGART

MAIN STREET.

1921

AFTON, N. Y

Dr. Lloyd A. Johnson
DENTIST
Post-office Bldg.

Dial 2633

Afton, N. Y.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

TABOR'S FUNERAL HOME

AFTON, NEW YORK

Phone 2351

1937

DR. IRELAND, SURGEON DENTIST,

1870

AFTON, N. Y.

Teeth mounted on all approved bases for ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

PLATED WORK REPAIRED.

Particular attention paid to the Irregularity of the Teeth.

For Extracting Teeth, Chloroform and Eth-

For Extracting Teeth, Chloroform and Ether will be administered only by consent of the Family Physician.

Nitrous Oxide Gas administered, which is perfectly harmless.

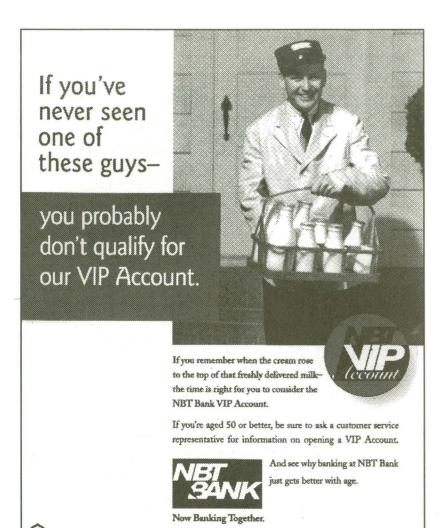
KARSCHNER FUNERAL HOME

Ambulance Service

Phone 2351

101

AFTON, N. Y.



Ad from Afton NBT showing milk man delivering bottled milk. The picture of holder and bottles is from the Afton Museum and contains items from Afton Dairies. 1. M.L. Swackhammer from Bunker Halbert with cap from Brian McClain: 2. M.L. Swackhammer from Lloyd Humphrey: 3. Glenside Farm, Will Hall from EVA Wayman: 4. F.W. Gallup, from Bunker Halbert: 5. Half pint bottle, Glenside Farm, C.M. Smith, from Hollis Barre.



GLENSIDE FARM

Choice Milk and Cream. Sanitary and up-to-date equipment

Afton, N.Y.

WILL HALL

From Afton Fair Premium Book, 1916.

HYATT'S DAIRY

Milk, Cream and Cheese

Afton Sherburne Phone 7-1471

Phone 7-3851

Hyatt's Dairy ad from Future Farmers of America Calendar for 1957.

North End Garage

HARRY L. SUTTON, Proprietor

Merton Secor & Son Afton, N. Y.

Dealers in

Certified Lubrication

Mobil Gas

Mobil Oil

1937

Morgan Bros. Garage

Afton, New York

DODGE and PLYMOUTH

Cars and Trucks

1937

Tiffany Motor Sales

Afton, New York

1937

Car dealers and independent gas stations have disappeared from Afton. The four on the left are found in the 1937 Fair Premium Book and the Afton Garage in the 1950 book. The next three are from the F.F.A. 1957 calendar. The last is from the Shupe Oldsmobile calendar for 1979.

The Afton Garage

1950

JAMES N. SWEET

LUTHER E. SANDERS

WALTER C. NOYES FORD SALES



Afton

1957

Phone 7-2151

DOOLITTLE BROTHERS

ESSO MARKETERS

Main Street

1957

Afton, New York

MASTER OIL COMPANY

Distributors - Atlantic Petroleum Products
TIRES AND ACCESSORIES

Afton

1957

Phone 7-1011

SHUPE OLDSMOBILE & PONTIAC

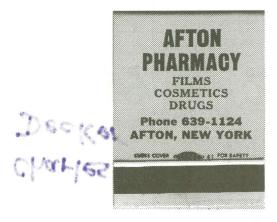
DT 7

AFTON, N. Y.

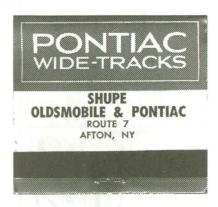
607-639-1271

Oldsmobile - Pontiac - GMC

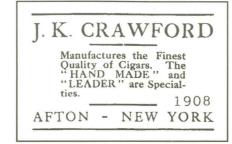
1979

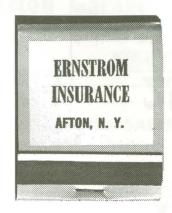


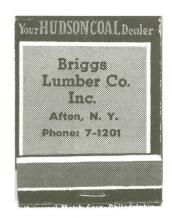




Matchbooks were a compact way to advertize products and services. The above three were collected by Walter Rose, the bottom two by Eugene Zurenda. Safety Matches would have been used to light J.K. Crawford's Cigars advertized in the 1908 Fair Premium Book.







1916 B. J. Mulleneux

Manufacturer of Wagons and Sleighs. All kinds
of Agricultural Repair Work. Satisfaction
guaranteed. Prices Low. Service Prompt
AFTON, N.Y.

¹⁹¹⁶ C. O. SACKETT

Afton BLACKSMITH NewYork
All kinds of Horse shoeing. We carry in stock Leather
and Rubber Pads and Neverslips (drive or screw
calks), and all kinds of shoes required by horses
Shop closed Saturday afternoons from May 1 to Nov'r 1

Seely's White Crested Black Polish
1906-7



Winners of the Silver Cup Special at World's Fair. St. Touis. Mo., 1904.

Bred and Owned by

Chas. T. Seely. Afton, M. y.

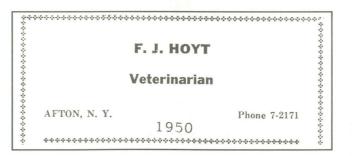
Animal ownership requires special services. Prize poultry and animals were entered in competition. It is reported that there are more horses in New York State today than in the 19th century. Except for the poultry, these ads are from the Afton Fair Premium Books.

L. W. BOLLES

Veterinarian

1916

Afton - New York



SPAVINOFF

TRY ONE BOX!

CES

It Will Cure
All Ailments due to Horseflesh.
Ringbone, Spavin, Windgalls, Enlargements, Sweeney, Curbs, &c.

SPAVINOFF

75c Per Box.

.. Manufactured by ..

CHURCH BROS., AFTON, N.Y.

DIRECTIONS:

Rub the salve on the bunches. After 48 hours grease well with lard. After SIX days wash and repeat the same until the bunch and lameness disappear. Give horse rest while treating.

SPAVINOFF

1904

DR. A. F. LEGG

Veterinarian

AFTON — NEW YORK

Phone 2971

1937

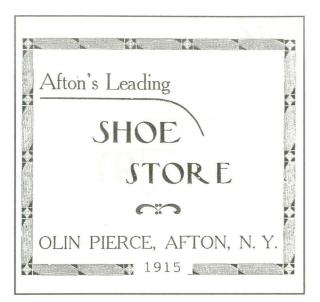
1950

AUCTION

EVERY FRIDAY - PROMPTLY AT 1:00 P. M.

DRACHLER SALES STABLES

FRED DRACHLER, Mgr.
Phone AFTON 2791- -- or BAINBRIDGE 4560



In the past there were several stores where one could buy clothing and shoes. Beauty shops kept women attractive. Other specialty shops provided additional goods. Seven of these ads are from Afton Fair Premium Books. The "Aunt Min's" ad is from a 1941 Afton Enterprise.

AFTON LIQUOR STORE

52 MAIN ST.

Best Known Brands

Ray A. & Anna M. Van Tassell 1956

AFTON, N. Y.

at Lowest Prices

PHONE 7-1464

CAMERAS

Photo Supplies tor Amateurs

THE

Views and Post Cards Made to Order.

W. C. HANDY. Afton. N. Y.

-STANTON'S HELEN BEAUTY SHOPPE

Years of Experience in All Branches of Beauty Culture-All Types of Permanents My Specialty

Afton, N. Y.

1937

Dial 2981

"Aunt Min's" BEAUTY SHOPPE

Permanents

Machineless\$5.00 and \$3.00 End Curls .10 and .15 per curl Facials 50c Hot Oil Shampoo50c Scalp Treatment 75c

Shampeo Wave Haircut Manicure

Arch

35c

each

Phone 2782 Mrs. Frank A. Doolittle Academy St., Afton, N. Y.

JENKS & SWART DEPARTMENT STORE

READY TO WEAR FOOTWEAR AND HOUSEHOLD ACCESSORIES

Afton, N. Y.

Phone 7-1661

1956

Tabor's Silk Shop

1937

Quality high and prices low, Give our goods a show.

M. GALPEER, CLOTHING,

Furnishings, Trunks and Satchels. 1902

COMPLIMENTS OF ELDRED'S CLOTHES SHOP AFTON, N. Y. STYLE AND QUALITY

> Leather nail file case from Eldred's Clothes Shop.

Arrowhead Stores

Afton, New York
We Deliver Phone 2722

GENERAL STORE

C. R. GREGORY & SON

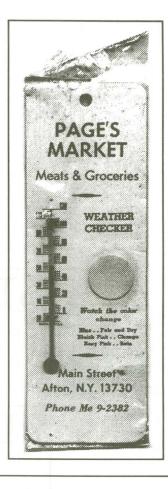
Telephone 2361

1937

Stores advertized in the Afton Fair
Premium Books in several years. Seven
of these are represented here. The
thermometer from Page's Market was a
useful advertizing item.
The Herkimer ad is from
an F.F.A. calendar







F. E. KEATOR

B. S. KEATOR, Owner

AFTON, NEW YORK

The Independent
Grocer 1937

Palmer & Company,

FANCY GROCERIES
OILS

CONFECTIONERY

FISHING TACKLE

EVERYTHING UP TO DATE

AFTON, N. Y. 1921



Herkimers Red and White Super Market

Afton

Phone 7-1662

The Store With Bargains Galore!

1957

Dairymen's League Co-operative Association, Inc.

Afton New York 1937

USE DAIRYLEA PRODUCTS

The large farm population formerly supported many agriculture related businesses. In 1902 there were over 150 farms in the town with dairy cows. Today there are fewer than ten. Ads from Afton Fair Premium Books and F.F.A. calendar, Feed

Afton Co-operative G. L. F. Service

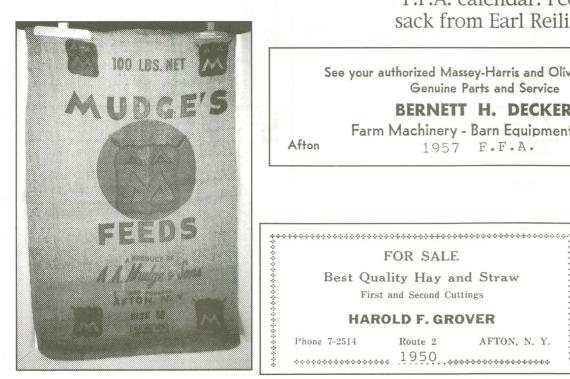
Telephone 2461

Afton. - New York

1937

****************************** COMPLIMENTS OF AFTON PLANT

Crowley's Milk Co., Inc.



See your authorized Massey-Harris and Oliver Dealer for Genuine Parts and Service

sack from Earl Reiling.

BERNETT H. DECKER

Farm Machinery - Barn Equipment - Coal 1957 F.F.A. Phone 7-2506 Meek & Secrest 1937

AFTON ICE SERVICE

FOR SALE

Best Quality Hay and Straw First and Second Cuttings

HAROLD F. GROVER

Phone 7-2514

Afton

Route 2

AFTON, N. Y.

1950

Future Farmers of America

Afton Aggies Afton, New York

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

1957

OFFICIAL FFA CHAPTER FUND RAISING CALENDAR

CHURCH & HILL Private Bankers

ESTABLISHED IN 1876

AFTON, NEW YORK 1916

First National Bank of Afton

Large Enough to Serve You Small enough to Know You Strong Enough to Protect You Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation AFTON 1957 Phone 7-2281

PAUL E. BROWN

Attorney-at-Law Telephone 2814

AFTON 1940 NEW YORK

THE AFTON ENTERPRISE,

NELSON E. BARTON, Editor and Publisher,

N. Y. AFTON, 1888

TERMS, \$1.00 RER YEAR.

Bankers, lawyers, insurance men, real estate agents, and printers provided many necessary services for Afton residents. Some of the ads are from the Afton Fair Premium Books. The Paul Brown and Randolph Guy ads are from a 1940 Afton Enterprise whose ad is from the 1888 Directory of Chenango County. The First National Bank and James Ernstrom ads from the F.F.A. calendar.

LOCAL AND BELL PHONES 2501 AFTON, N. Y.

LICENSED BROKER

G. F. DECKER

DEALER IN REAL ESTATE AND VILLAGE HOMES

REPRESENTED BY F. H. DECKER

PHONE 2412 47 BOUTH MAIN STREET AFTON, N. Y.

The Darwin H. Craig Real Estate Agency. 1921 AFTON, N. Y.

Insurance

Loans

Surety Bonds

FIRE INSURANCE

VILLAGE AND

FARM PROPERTY.

AUTOMOBILE

PUBLIC LIABILITY

W. C HANDY

Afton, N. Y. 1921

RANDOLPH C. GUY General Insurance Dividend Paying Companies South Main St.

Tel. 2494

Afton, N. Y. 1940_

JAMES P. ERNSTROM

Every Kind of Insurance

Afton

1957

Phone 7-2255

VALLEY * HOUSE, AFTON, N. Y.

J. B. CASS, Proprietor.

First-class in every respect. Rates \$1.50 per day.

The New

Gas. Steam Heat.

All Appointments First-Class. When you come to the Fair Stop at the New Phelps

PARK HOTEL

C. M. Leonard, Prop.

Rates \$1.00 per day.

EAST SIDE.

Near Fair Grounds.

St. James Motel

Je 36 36

E. EVERARD, Proprietor

A & H

Rates \$1 per day

1902

In 1902 Afton had four hotels to accommodate travelers and salesmen. Each probably had a dining room. Today there is one hotel and several restaurants. Printed ads are all from the Afton Fair Premium Books with the years noted. MacNayer's tourist sign is in the Afton Museum. There were several tourist homes years ago.

MIDWAY DINER JUST GOOD FOOD

AFTON, N. Y.

1958

THE IDEAL DINER

Fred C. Talbot, Owner

ON THE MAIN STREET

NEW YORK

-- New and Clean ---

WE NEVER CLOSE

The

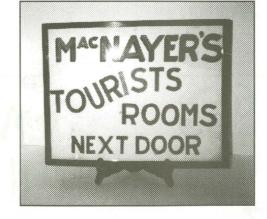
AFTON INN

65 MAIN ST.

AFTON

N. Y

1956



FINE FOODS

HOME COOKED

THE "HARDER'S"

RESTAURANT

Phone 7-2543

Route 7

AFTON, N. Y.

1950

ADELE'S RESTAURANT

CHICKEN-N-BISCUIT HOME COOKING Sunday & Holiday Dinners

Phone 7-1043

AFTON, N. Y.

Route 7, Between Afton & Bainbridge

1954

Schohanna Restaurant

Rhea Holcomb Afton: New York

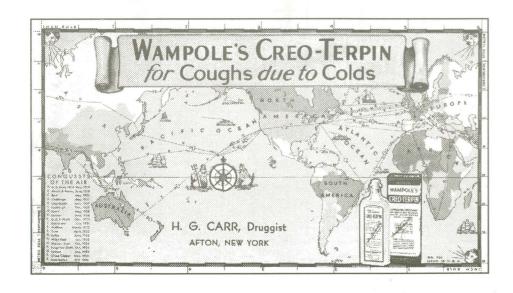
Route 7

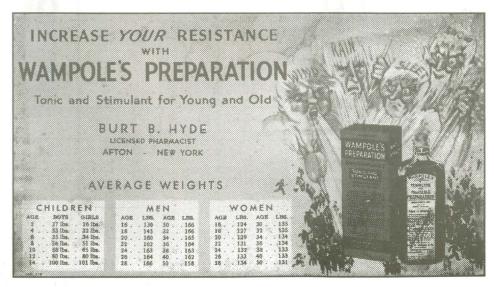
1937

Dial Afton 2714

Blotters, once a home and office necessity, are no longer needed since the advent of the ball-point pen. None of these has been used.







HARRY G. HORTON

AFTON, NEW YORK

Dial 2723

Residence Dial 2673

1937

Businesses which provided from Afton Fair Premium Books except last which is from Briggs Lumber Company catalog.

SWARTS' HARDWARE

WESTINGHOUSE - EASY WASHERS SPORTING GOODS - HOUSEWARES

Afton, N. Y.

1956

Phone 7-1841

STEWART & SCOTT

Afton

Phone 7-1692

1957

or 7-1901

Building Contractors and Supplies

FRANK LEWIS & SONS

General Contractors in Bridge and Road Building, Etc. AFTON, N. Y.

Manufacturers of Vaults, Tile, Water Troughs, Concrete Blocks and everything in concrete. Dealers in Lime, Wall Plaster, Wall Board, Plaster of Paris and Kcene Cement,

1921

services or materials. All ads

House Wiring.

Electrical Fixtures.

WM M MERRELL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Motors and Electrical Accessories.

AFTON, N. Y.

Crosley & Bendix Appliances

Crosley Refrigerators-Freezers-Ranges-Range Top Television & Radio Built in Oven Bendix Automatic Washer & Dryer Combination Washer & Dryer

FRED HOLDREGE

56 Main St.

1956

AFTON, N. Y.

CHURCH BROS

DEALERS IN

LUMBER

AFTON, NEW YORK.

Lath, Shingles, Sash, Blinds, Doors

Mouldings, Paroid Roofing, Neponset Semer Pipe, Etc.

1915

************** COMPLIMENTS

MORGAN

24 Hour

BOTTLED GAS SERVICE

Oneonta Sharon Springs

Cobleskill Afton

Norwich

Roxbury Oxford

Palatine Bridge Greene

Dimock, Pa.

BRIGGS LUMBER COMPANY

SPRING-SUMMER

Established



1965

Tickets and memberships give us the names of people and organizations. The two bottom ones are from Alice Davey. Fratres Noctis was a debating Club from Afton High School. Students from neighboring towns, down the river, rode the D. & H. to attend Afton High School.

Basketball

World-Famous Washington Jets

Afton Town Team

TUESDAY, DEC. 10 — 8:15 P. M. AFTON CENTRAL SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Students: \$.75

Vallonia (Thapter Mo. 8	30, 1R. A.	(11) .
	Of Afton, New	<u>P</u> ork	
	This is to Certify	o That	
Companion	quel C		معد
	er in good standing o		
William Control of the Control of th	in full to OA		92/
50550 50 P6000000 C K 1750 F000 P 30 F00 F000	day of Ott		
	IN. A. H	····	_H_P

ECCE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1909,
THE GHOST AND HIS FAITHFUL SONS,
THE AMALGAMATED CONCATENATED

ORDER, FRATRES NOCTIS,
HOLD THEIR ANNUAL

BANQUET AND BLOW OUT.
THEY REQUEST YOUR COMPANY.
CENTRAL HOUSE, AFTON, N. Y., B:30 P. M.
BANQUET DUES ARE SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS A COVER.

If any Fra MUST be absent, will he kindly write an epistle of condolence to Ralph B. Cass, Bainbridge, N. Y., before August 23?

—Ex Voto.

1993	Delaware & Hudson	300
1161 0161 6061 8061 Add	MONTHLY SCHOOL TICKET THIS TICKET ENTITLES M. Chas Supple Continuous Rides in either direction, between On conditions named on back hereof, and only it used on or before date as indicated by L punch in margin below. 46 M. S. 459 Passenger Traffic Manager.	40 41 42 43 44 45 () () () () () () () () () () () () () (
	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
	Nov Oct., Sept. Aug. July June May Apr. Mar. Feb. J.C.	(%)(~)(~)

The Afton Historical Society

Remembers

Tools of Our Ancestors



David Honsaker's Third Grade Class at the Afton Museum Barn, October, 2005.

Calendar for 2007

The Afton Museum Barn

The barn of the Afton Historical Society Museum has become a repository for tools and artifacts once used by our farm and village populations. Many people have saved these articles and are glad to have a place where they can be preserved.

The barn is an attraction for many visitors who like to see the tools which their parents and grand-parents used in the past. School groups and Mormon tourists are among those who make appointments. During Afton's Arts and Crafts Days in August, many families come in to browse and ask questions.

The barn, which originally housed the horses and carriage of wagon maker Linus E. Jackson, was probably built at about the same time he erected the house, about 1867. Most of the present contents of the barn would have been in use at that time.

The interior of the barn, repaired and put in usable condition by inmates of Camp Pharsalia, is arranged in sections, divided by peg-board partitions. The idea came from the Old Onaquaga Society's St. Luke's Church Museum in Harpursville. Ann Herbert, an interior decorator, designed that display.

The first area in the front of the barn pertains to milk and butter production. Dairying was a most important industry in our valley, especially after the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad (later the D. & H.) was completed from Albany to Binghamton in 1869. In the Directory of Chenango County for 1902, there were 155 places in the Town and Village of Afton which had some cows. Most people made their own butter.

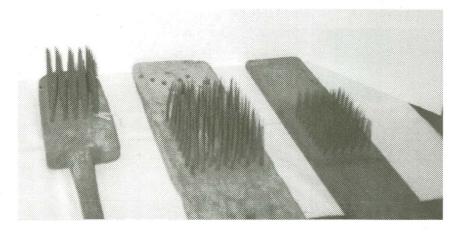
Ice cutting tools occupy another section. Ice was necessary for preserving the milk and butter and other foods. A large Jewett's ice box, patented in 1884, is an unusual example of such equipment. Also on display is a horse-drawn tool for scoring the ice, in preparation for cutting the blocks. It was used on Afton Lake.

Woodworking tools, blacksmith's tools, planting tools, and harvesting tools were used by hand to provide the products needed for 19th century living. Life was hard, with much less leisure time than we have today. Yet, the old-timers had fond memories of those times.

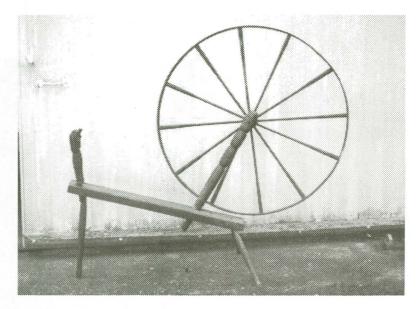
By Charles J. Decker, Afton Town and Village Historian.

Museum Open Sundays from 2 to 4 pm, Memorial Day to Labor Day or by appointment.

Call 639-2720 or 639-2363.

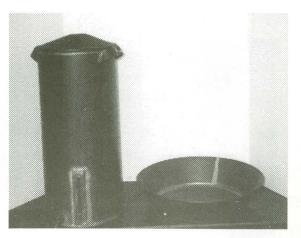


Three hatchels for cleaning and dressing flax for spinning. The spikes became progressively smaller. The smallest were for fine linen thread.



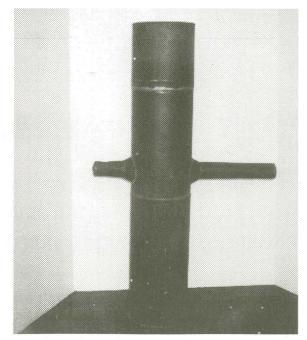
Large spinning wheel for wool, also called a walking wheel. Spindle is missing. Given by Hyman Wilcox

Cream can with window and spigot. Cream pan. These were used for letting cream rise from milk. Pan from Lynnette Baciuska.

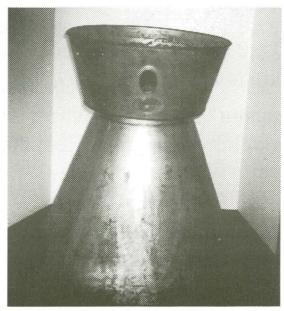




Large cream can. W.P. Hunt's UP-TO-DATE cream separator. Pat. Jan. 30, 1900. Newark, N.Y. From Dorotha Wood.



Milk cooler which contained ice and was submerged into milk. N.C. Burnap. Pat. August 13, 1867. Argusville, N.Y. Researched by Miner J. Cooper, Windsor.



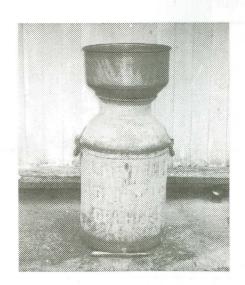
Milk cooler. Milk placed in upper section streamed down over lower part which contained ice. Outlet at bottom fed into a milk bottle. Given by Charles J. Decker.



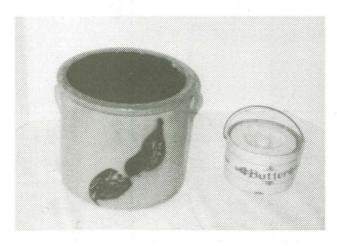
Milking machine pail. Wearever Aluminum. TACU Co. Trademark. Made in USA. Given by Charles J. Decker.



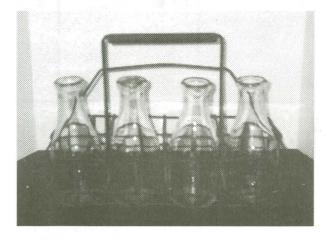
Table Model Cream Separator. Montgomery Ward. Made in USA.
Given by Hyman Wilcox.



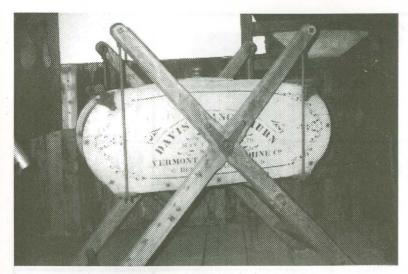
Milk strainer and milk can. Can from Dairymen's League, Delhi, N.Y. Strainer from Charles J. Decker.



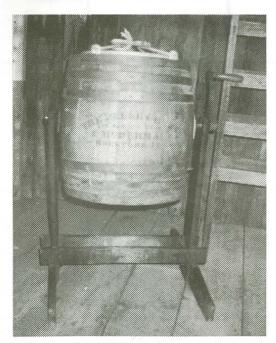
Butter crock. White & Wood, Binghamton. Blue decoration. Small crock with bail.



Milk bottles. First two are M.L. Swackhammer, Afton; third is Glenside Farm, Will Hall, Afton; fourth is F.W. Gallup, Afton.



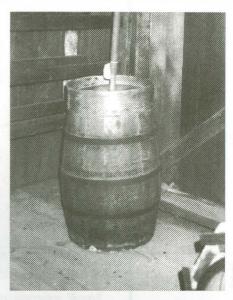
Rocking or swing churn. Davis Swing Churn, No. 4. Pat. May 1, 77, Sept. 9, 79. Manuf'd by Vermont Farm Machinery, Bellows Falls, Vt.



Barrel Churn. The Belle Churn. J. McDermaid. Rockford, Ill. Given by Dorotha Wood.



Stoneware dasher churn. G. Hart & Son, Sherburne. No. 4 Given by Hyman Wilcox



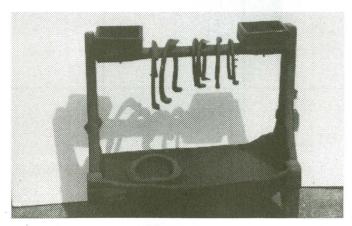
Wooden dasher churn. Connected to treadmill. Given by Charles J. Decker.



Treadmill which could be operated by a dog, sheep, or even a child. A.M. Childs & Co. Utica, N.Y. Pat'd Feb. 28, 1871, June 28, 1881. Adjustable track.

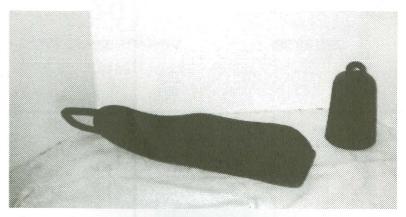


Small blacksmith's forge made to be run by a crank. Later converted for a motor. Given by Tony Kane

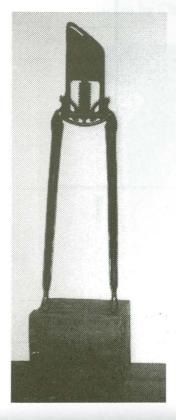


Farrier's rack for carrying nails, tools, and horse shoes for shoeing horses.

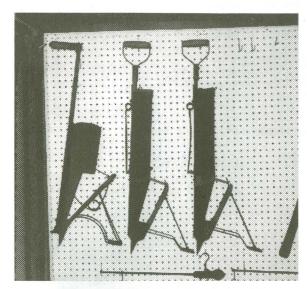
Given by Red Baciuska. From Beatman, Loomis, Baciuska farm in North Afton. Used by William Beatman.



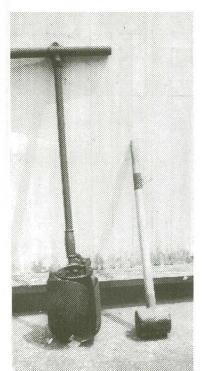
Drag shoe or druggle. Hung on chain under a wagon where it could be dropped under a wheel to act as a brake going down hill. Heavy weight hung from horse's neck to keep him from wandering off, but still allowing him to graze



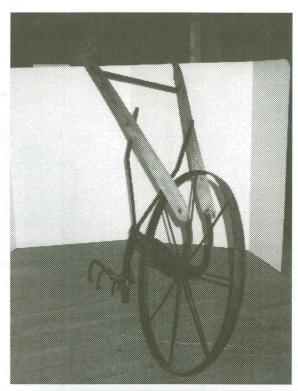
Dehorning shears for cattle. Pat. April 5, 1892. Mfc'd by H.H. Brown & Co. Decatur, Ill, U.S.A. Given by Richard Ingalls, D.V.M.



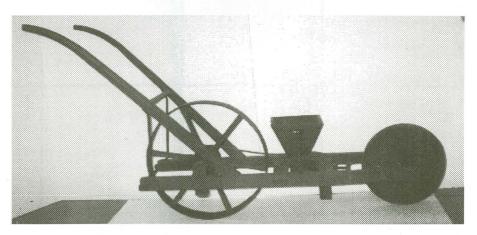
Three "corn stabbers" or planters for manual planting or filling in gaps in rows. From several sources.



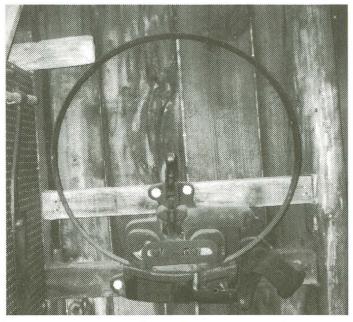
Post hole digger and cast iron post maul for fence building.



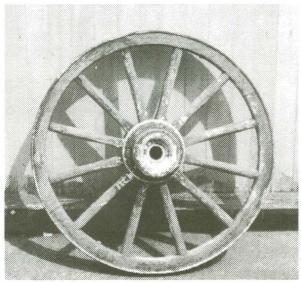
Hand propelled garden cultivator. Given by Allen Renner family. Purchased new in 1923.



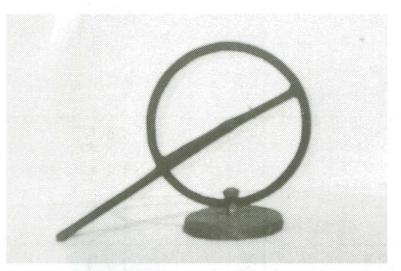
Wooden garden seeder. Brought from Jefferson, N.Y., by Decker family in 1866. Given by Charles J. Decker.



Adjustable, heavy iron tool for bending heated iron to make the right shape for a wagon tire. Given by Red Baciuska.

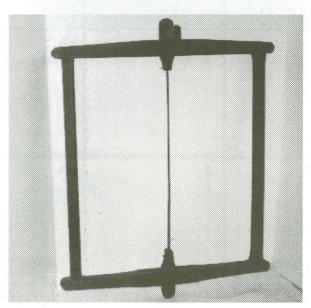


Old wagon wheel of wood with iron tire and bindings on hub.



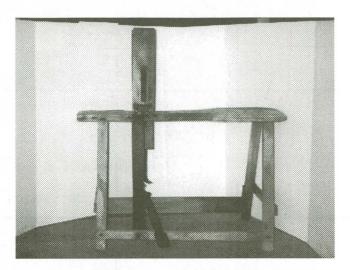
Rotating gauge for measuring the circumference of items such as wagon wheels.

Used by Lewis R. Rose, blacksmith in North Sanford. Given by Walter Rose.

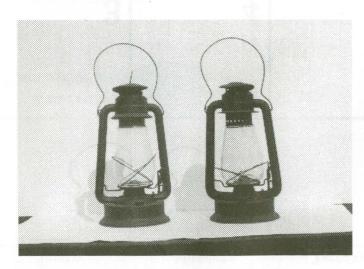


Felloe or felly saw for cutting the curved wood sections of a wagon wheel.

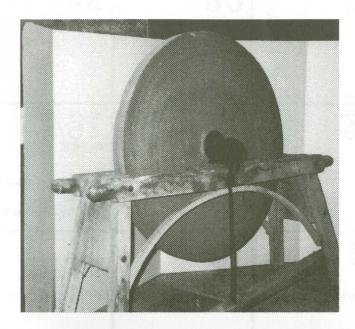
Used by Lewis R. Rose of North Sanford. Given by Walter Rose.



Harness maker's bench with upright wooden clamp to hold leather strips to be sewn. Given by Lynnette Baciuska



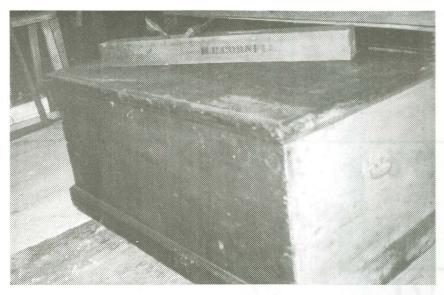
Barn lanterns which used kerosene before the days of electricity. The first electric line came from Centervillage in 1913. Given by Hyman Wilcox.



Grindstone for sharpening household and farm tools. It was operated by a treadle.



Eel spear used for catching eels which were used for food. Given by Jesse Barr.

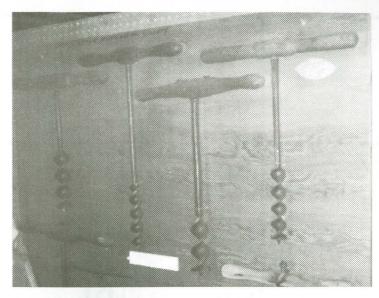


Tool chest and block plane which belonged to Hiram B. Cornell (Cornwell) of the pioneer settler family on the old Arthur Grover farm.

Given by Charles J. Decker.



Chopping block. Could be used for sharpening fence posts, splitting wood, beheading chickens, etc.



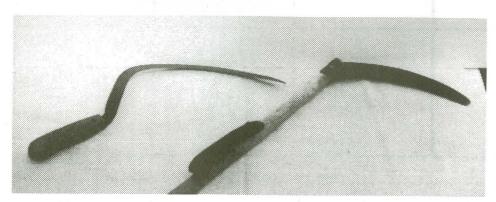
Assortment of wood augers on display board. Given by Hyman Wilcox.



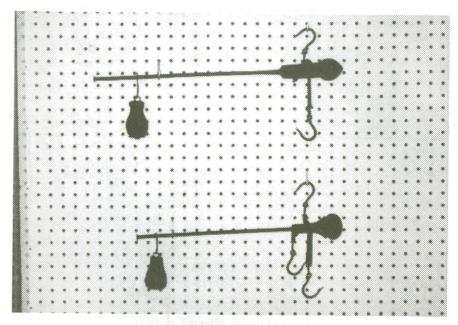
Hand made wood auger. Given by Russell Butler.



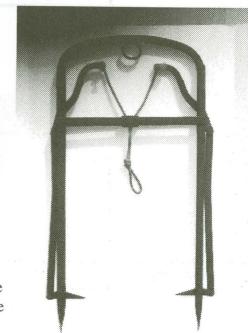
Two-tine wooden fork and two-tine steel fork. Wooden fork from Charles J. Decker. Steel fork from Dorotha Wood.



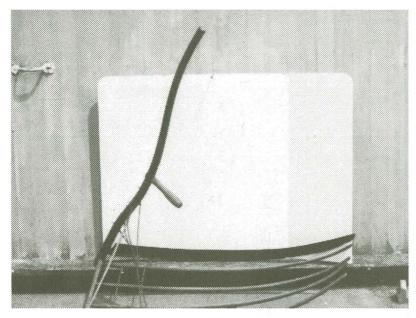
Curved sickle for grain and corn knife for cutting corn stalks.



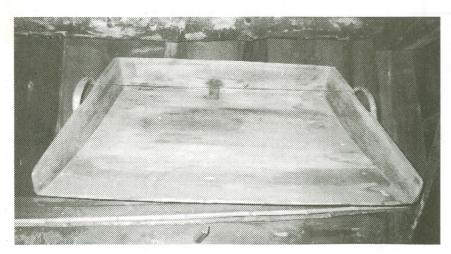
Steelyards with movable weights for weighing all kinds of objects, including newborn babies.



Hay fork for hoisting hay from a wagon to a metal track in the gable of a barn. It was then carried horizontally to the proper spot where the trip-rope released the hay.

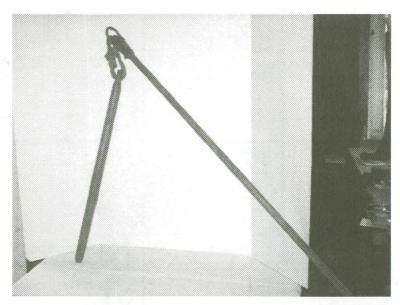


Cradle scythe for cutting grain. The bundles created by one sweep were left on the ground and then bound by a worker who followed.

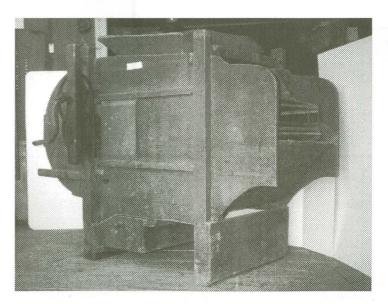


Winnowing box for separating grain from chaff. One stood between the two open doors of a threshing barn on a breezy day and gradually let a quantity of grain sift off the edge, the wind blowing away the chaff.

Given by Charles J Decker.



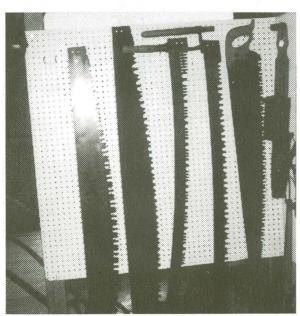
Wooden flail for beating grain from stalks on a threshing floor. Eelskin was recommended for the joint, but this one has a piece of rope.



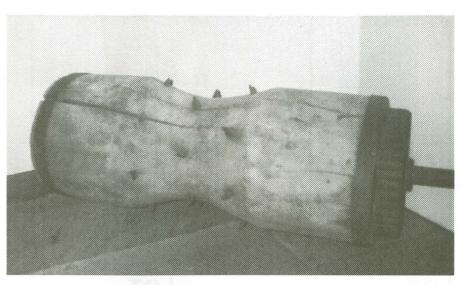
Fanning mill for separating chaff from grain. Fan blades were turned by a hand crank. A great improvement over the winnowing box. Given by Hyman Wilcox.



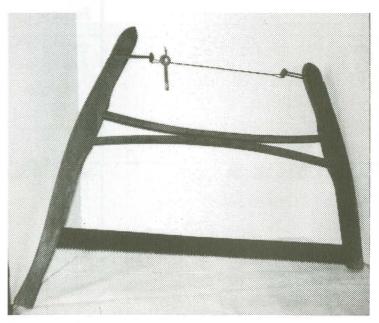
Peavy for rolling logs.



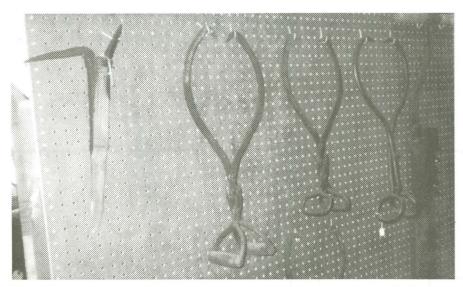
Cross-cut saws for cutting logs.



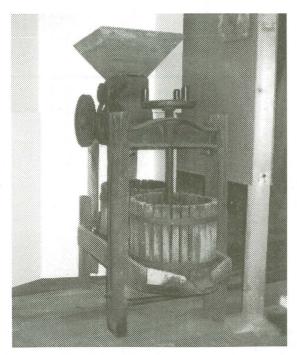
Device with cast iron points, apparently for carrying logs into saw at a saw mill.



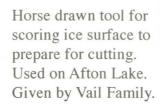
Buck saw for cutting firewood.



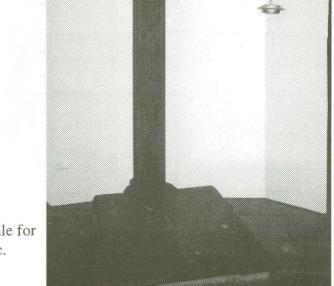
Ice spud (handle broken) for moving ice cakes in channel. Three sets of ice tongs.



Cider press for extracting juice from ripe apples. From Carl and Marjorie Hendrickson.





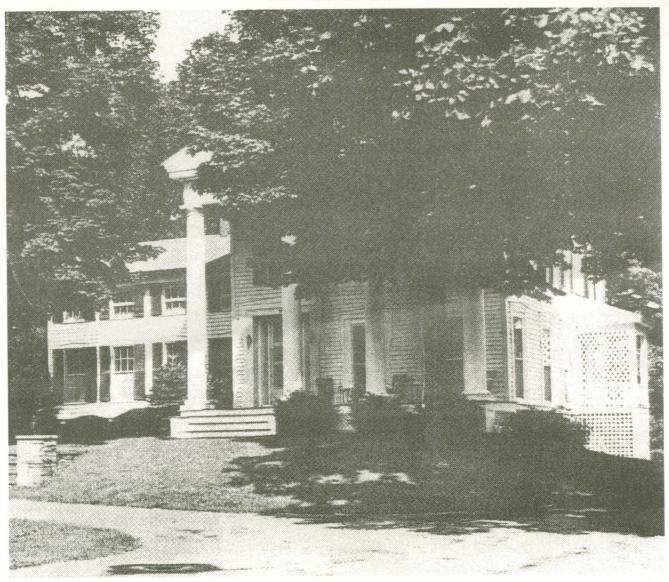


Fairbanks farm scale for weighing grain, etc. Given by Hyman Wilcox.

THE AFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY REMEMBERS

HOMES OF AFTON

2008 Calendar



Landers Homestead on East Main Street, became "Jericho Farm", home of Dr. and Mrs. Carton J. H. Hayes in the 1930's. Now a bed and breakfast inn.

Afton is a village of about 836 people, located on the Susquehanna River on the southern edge of Chenango County. Transportation has always had a great effect on the surrounding area. The coming of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad (later called the Delaware and Hudson) in 1867 decided the development of the business district on the west side of the river. This also opened the market for dairy products and promoted businesses supporting milk production. The building of Interstate 88 in the 1960's and '70's made it easier to travel to larger nearby towns. This caused a decline in the number and kinds of businesses in Afton.

In spite of these changes, Afton's homes are, for the most part, well maintained and attractive. Many new ones were built by returning World War II veterans.

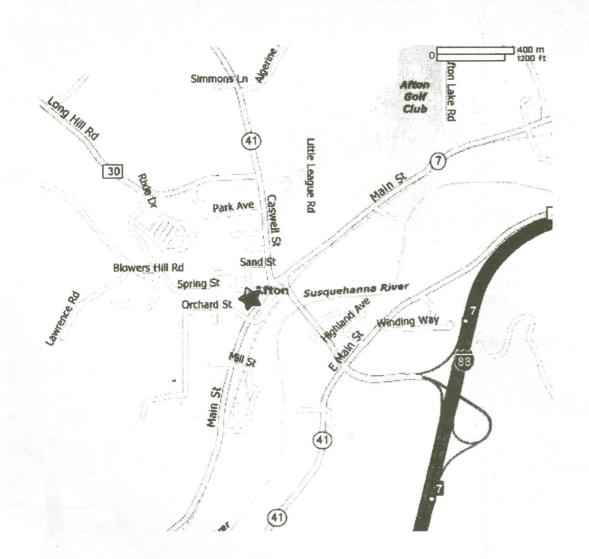
As is evident from the pictures, many houses have undergone major changes. Windows, doors and siding have been replaced, sometimes giving an entirely different look to a house. Additions have been made and newer houses have garages. However, many of he older houses still have their barns, a legacy of the horse and buggy days.

Some houses have been converted from their original uses, such as a hop barn, a pump house, and one-room schoolhouses.

Many of the former owners of these houses are named when remembered, but present owners are purposely not named. The locations are given and can be found by street names on the map. The scale does not allow the numbering of specific spots on a street. A few of the houses included are outside of the village limits.

By Charles J. Decker Afton town Historian

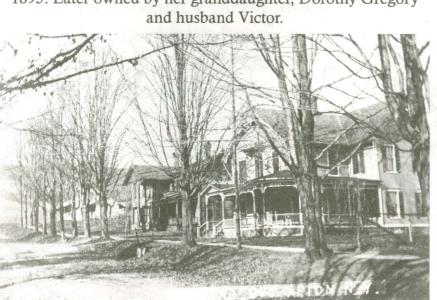
MAP OF THE VILLAGE OF AFTON



This is the most up-to-date map of the Village of Afton available. Many street names have been changed over the years. For example, Pleasant Avenue was once Caswell Street, Caswell Street was once Coventry Street, and Mill Street wasonce Van Woert Street. Some of the pictures in this calendar are old enough to have some of these former street names. Names were given according to prominent residents or to the destination of the street.



House on Pleasant Avenue built by Mrs. Emma McMaster in 1895. Later owned by her granddaughter, Dorothy Gregory and husband Victor.



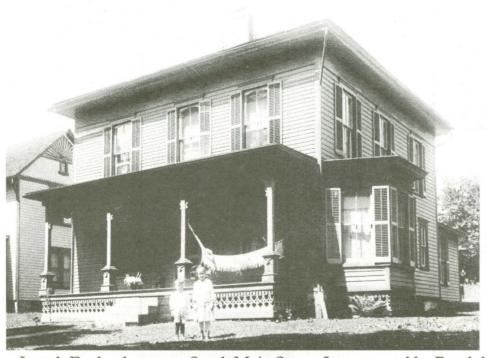
House on Upper Spring Street owned by Theodore L. Willey in 1875. Later it was owned by the Barr family. Recent owners were Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Horne



House on Pleasant Avenue. Once the home of the Raymond Lockwood family. It is said to have faced Main Street before the Fred Chamberlin house was built.



House built by Addison Brower on Pleasant Avenue. He was associated with the sash and blind factory. Frank and Hattie Scott lived there for many years.



Joseph Decker house on South Main Street. Later owned by Randolph and Nora Decker Guy. Kenneth and Thelma Guy in foreground. C. 1915.



Left, John Skelly house on South Main Street. Later owned by Carl & Barbara Olson. Right, Harry Horton house. Harry Horton in yard. Fannie Hare Horton on porch.



Henry Hall house on South Main Street. Later the Hollister Barre home. Now Jockeyport Stables and Veterinary Services. Members of the Hall family in yard. Dated 1913.



Main Street next to Jack Bolster Community Center. Former home of Nat and Inez Johnston. Later owned by the Weeks family who operated a snack bar in a building at the rear.



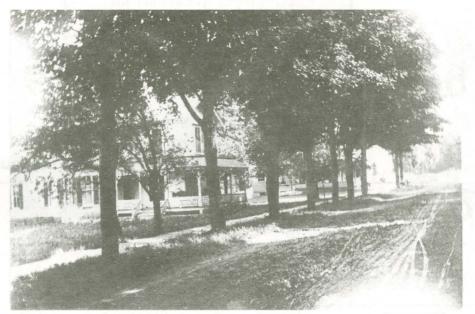
Houses on Main Street. Left was home of Miss Alice Taggart, Howard Dixon, then Clifford Johnson. Roberta sold antiques. Middle home was of druggist, Albert C. Hyde. Right was home of Zenas Tarble, meat market owner and county sheriff. Date 1915.



House on Main Street second from McDowell and Walker Feed Mill. Once rented by the Glenn Shepard family, then rented by Dr. Heinz G. Cohn.



House on Main Street once owned by J. Angel. Later occupant was Hiram Rose. For many years Fred and Lorraine Foster lived there. He was the principal of Afton school.



Main Street home of Clark L. Horton, founder of Horton Hardware. The house is now empty and in a state of disrepair. It stands next to McDowell & Walker Feed Company. Dated 1907.



Home of O. Eugene Sackett on Spring Street. Succeeded by Harry and Florence Sackett Carr and then Mike and Harriet Carr Van Valkenburg. Much of the Victorian trim has been removed.



House at corner of Spring Street and Academy Street. Was the home of Dr. and Mrs. Philetus A. Hayes and birthplace of Dr. Carlton J.H. Hayes.

Later the home of Dr. William Crull.



Former S. Burnside house on Upper Spring Street. Later residents were Mr. and Mrs. Erford Page and the Robert Ashley family.



House on Spring Street built by Charles Loop. Was the home of Richard and Martha Holdrege for many years.



House on Main Street. Former home of George Church. Later owners were Ralph Tiffany, Heinz G. Cohn, and Ralph and Addie Standish.



Green cement block house on South Main Street. Formerly the maternity home of Ruth Sullivan Legg. Her husband was veterinarian, Asa F. Legg. It was later the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Kane.



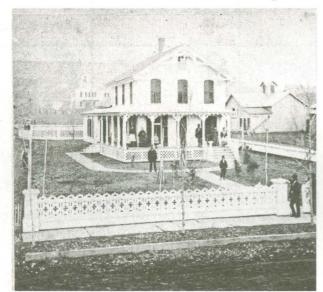
Main Street homes of former residents Fred Chamberlin and Morris J. Mudge, founder of M.J. Mudge & Son Feed Store.



On right, the Alden J. Mudge, Sr. house on Main Street. He succeeded his father, Morris J. Mudge as A.A. Mudge & Sons Feed Store. Now a funeral home.



House at corner of Main Street and Spring Street. Built by Edgar Garrett. Later owners were Edna Dutton, Lynn Farnsworth, and Ernest Poole. Now a law office and apartments.



Gilman Caswell house on corner of Caswell and Sand Street. Later home of Marion Swart family. Union School at rear has only right wing built in 1872.



Houses on Main Street. First, William A. Wright, later Nelson Crane. Middle, old Kelsey Tavern, once the home of Charles Seely, breeder of fancy poultry. Right, former home of Isabelle Jennings, benefactor of Afton Museum. Now an adult home.



The Farnsworth place on Caswell Street, owned by several generations of the family. Eva Holleran Farnsworth wrote historical articles for the newspaper during the Afton centennial in 1957.



House at corner of Main Street and Pleasant Avenue. Built by Harrison Caswell. Later owned by his daughter May and husband Dr. George Liggett, Presbyterian Minister. Now Hope Congregational Church.



Former Carl Scott house on Orchard Street. Nina Scott and daughter Mildred on porch.



House on Main Street at the foot of Pleasant Avenue. Built by William Merrell about 1918. Rear room on left was Telephone Central Office operated by Nellie Merrell. Until 2006, was Presbyterian Manse. Afton Enterprise block at left.

Right - Inez Chandler maternity home.



Josephine Mackley house on South Main Street. Husband Eli was a blacksmith. Dated 1923.



House on Spring Street next to fire station. Was home and office of Dr. Eugene A. Goodsell, a member of the first graduating class of the Afton Academy. Later the home of Dr. W. Lee Dodge.



Bert Lord house at corner of Spring and High Streets. Bert served as New York Assemblyman, Senator and United States Representative. Dated 1908.



George and Leonora Knox Decker home on Spring Street. It was built by William Wright. Dated 1935.



Robert Thomson home on Upper Spring Street. Robert on left and son Wayne in World War I Uniform. Recently owned by Sharon and Alan Hulbert.



House at corner of Spring Street and High Street. Harriet Hyde Carr is seated beside her daughter Mattie Carr Chamberlin. Later owners were the Gallups and the Wasmuths who peddled bottled milk.



House next to Foster Park on Maple Avenue. Once owned by Birnie Bassett who raised strawberries. It had an attached greenhouse. The Charles Tripp family later lived there.



House at the corner of High Street and Orchard Street. Formerly the home of the Glenn Shepard Family.



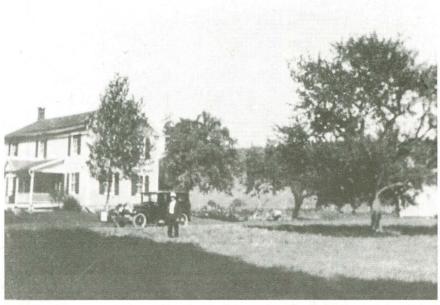
Bettsburg Corner. Victorian house built by banker Enos Johnston in 1876. The white house in the background has date 1811 on the foundation. It was once the George Gregg farm.



Former Wayland Hinman house on Myrtle Avenue. Later owned by Robert Bulkeley and others. Dated 1919.



House at corner of Sand Street and Myrtle Avenue. Some owners were Harry Derby, Prof. William F. Spencer, and Howard Rose. Dated 1927.



House on Route 41, third from fairgrounds. It was once owned by George F. Decker. Later was Red Shutters Tea Room, owned by Fred and Bess Mason. George Decker by car.



Main Street business section. House built by Daniel A. Carpenter who also built the store building, now the Town Hall. Later resident was daughter-in-law Linda Seely Carpenter.



OUT OF THE

VILLAGE HOMES

House on Route 41 near Bettsburg once owned by Samuel Cornwell, later by the Fisher family. It has been owned since the 1930's by the Page family.



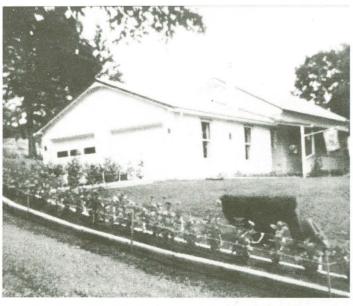
William Grover house at Middlebridge on the East Side. Dated 1962.



The Decker Homestead on Route 41, south of the fairgrounds. Part of the Abel Cornwell Farm, it was purchased by Selah Decker in 1866.

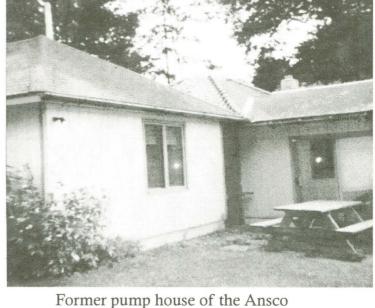


Josiah Stowell house on Route 7 between Afton and Nineveh next to Reiling's Garage. Stowell brought Joseph Smith, the Mormon founder, to this area. It is now owned by Mormons from Utah. Dated 1925.



District 8 schoolhouse on Algerine Street. Now a residence. It was once owned by the Bennett family.





Former pump house of the Ansco Company at Afton Lake. Converted to a residence.



This house on Orchard Street was formerly a hop barn for curing hops. In 1875 it was owned by J. Hinderhand. Recent owners were Merwyn and Frances Fenner. Lynn tractor pulling snow plow. Dated 1926.



House on corner of Spring Street and Myrtle Avenue. Formerly a Select School before the establishment of the Afton Union School and Academy. Later the office of Dentist Cassius A. Sackett.



The Afton Historical Society Remembers

Afton People

Dr. Carlton J.H. Hayes was the son of Philetus A. Hayes, M.D., of Afton. He graduated from Afton High School and then from Columbia University where he filled a fifty-year career as student and History Professor. He was President of the New York Sate Historical Association and Ambassador to Spain during World War II. He was married to Evelyn Carroll and they had two children, Mary Elizabeth and Carroll. He was the author of many historical texts.



Afton People

People are what make up a community and Afton has a long history of those who have had an influence locally, state-wide, nationally, and internationally. The first settlers came here in 1786 and people have been arriving and leaving in the 222 years since.

In the year 1785, Governor George Clinton purchased land from the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians. Included was what is now Afton, Bainbridge, and a small piece of Coventry and it was called Clinton Township. These lands were given to "Vermont Sufferers" to recompense them for properties lost in the dispute over holdings of "Yorkers" in Vermont when it became a state.

Not all early settlers were from Vermont. Some early Afton names were Stowell, Landers, Church, Betts, Boynton, Cornwell (Cornell), and Pollard. Although most of these families were prolific, the only name which appears today in Afton's telephone directory of Cornell.

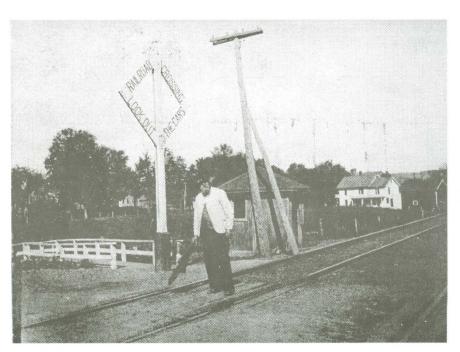
The people whose pictures appear in this calendar are only some of those whose photographs have survived and who are identified. Some of their names are familiar to almost anyone who has lived here for any length of time. Others have become obscured by time. In some of the group photos, none, or only a few of the names are known, but they represent the interests and activities of a community such as ours.

It is interesting to note that some occupations no longer exist because of changing times. Blacksmiths, harness makers, shoemakers, crossing guards, etc., have been replaced by larger manufacturing interests or by mechanical devices. Many Afton residents travel

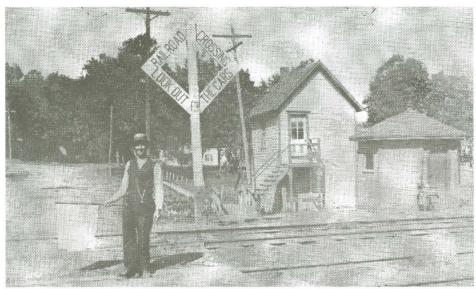
on improved roads to neighboring towns for employment.

As the years pass, more and more young people go to college, marry spouses from other parts of the country, and move to places where their jobs take them. Very few people are the fifth generation of a family living in the same house for four or five generations like me and some of my neighbors. People now travel long distances to visit their home towns and families and renew acquaintances.

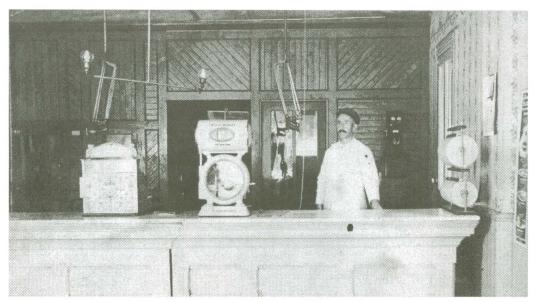
By Charles J. Decker Afton Town and Village Historian



Robert Craig, father of lawyer Darwin Craig, was crossing guard before 1904 by the present Horton Hardware store.



Veto Martin, born Vito Mascoveto in Italy, was crossing guard by the present Horton Hardware store. He married Ella Jane Burk of Nineveh.



Joe Chamberlin in his butcher shop, probably the later site of Page's Market and now the Rendezvous.



James Nickerson, with his brother Cornelius, built "Sunny Crest", the large double house on the site of the Jack Bolster Community Center. They were hop growers.



Clark L. Horton opened his hardware store in 1906. Continued by his son Harry, it is now owned by the Gaydorus family.



Henry Carr owned a drug store on the site of the main entrance of Vincent's restaurant. The picture dates from the great snow of 1926. He was Town Clerk for many years.



Harrison and Nancy Black Briggs. He came from Coventry about 1866 and had a store. He was succeeded by his son Will. The doors identify the house on the corner of Mill and Main Street.



Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Smith. He was a harness maker and poultry breeder. His harness shop was on the site of St. Agnes Church and his home across the street became the Afton Hospital.



John and Ellen Sornberger. He was a carpenter and they loved in the mansard roofed house just above Locust Street on Spring Street.

Paul E. and Blanche
Parsons Brown. He
practiced law in
Afton from 1916 to
1943. She had been a
teacher on
Perch Pond Hill.





Mr. and Mrs. Eli C. Mackley in front of his blacksmith shop. It was located on the site of the house of the late Tony Kane.



George B. Goodnough in front of his blacksmith shop on Caswell
Street near the present XtraMart

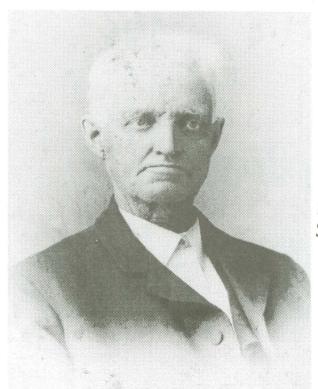


Butter firkin factory in building of sash and blind factory which burned in 1902. Was on site of later Briggs Lumber Company.

Workers unnamed.

Linus E. Jackson, wagonmaker, came from Franklin in 1866 and built the house which is now the Afton museum. His business was in the building later owned by George B. Goodnough.

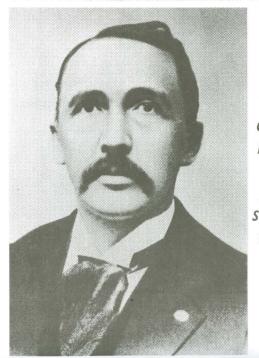




Dr. James B. Cook, Afton physician from 1842. Died in 1888. Graduate of Albany Medical Institute 1841. Town Supervisor 1863–64.

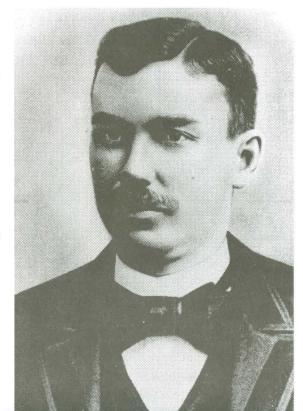
Dr. George Bissell.
Homeopathic
physician. In Afton
from
1877–1884.





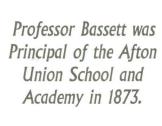
Dr. Philetus A. Hayes came to practice medicine in 1871. His home was on the corner where Alton Jenks now lives. His wife started a music program in the school. Their son was Dr. Carlton J.H. Hayes.

Dr. Eugene A. Goodsell was one of the three graduates in the first class from the Afton Union School and Academy in 1879. He graduated from the Eclectic Medical College in New York in 1884. Coming back to Afton in 1888, his career was cut short by death in 1902.





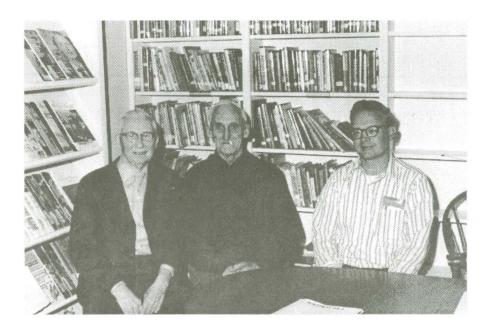
Anna Green Church was the first Preceptress at the new Afton Union School and Academy when it opened in 1871.







Professor Allen
H. Knapp was
Principal of the
Afton Union School
and Academy in
1891–92. His salary
was \$900.



Fred P. Foster, left, was a long-time Principal of Afton Central School. He later was District Superintendent of Schools. With him are Jay Terry, center, and Jim Vance, right.



Zenas Tarble had a meat market in the basement of what is now the Afton Grill and Bakery. He was later Sheriff of Chenango County.

Bert Lord was a partner with Whit McHugh in a store, now part of Vincent's Restaurant. He served as Town Supervisor, N.Y.S. Assemblyman and Senator, and U.S. Representative.





Whit McHugh was a partner with Bert Lord in a store where the center part of Vincent's Restaurant is today. His father, Burt, had a furniture and undertaking business in 1911. Whit died in 1955.



Ernest L. Poole was a farmer and Afton Supervisor from 1946 to 1975. He was Superintendent and Treasurer of Glenwood Cemetery for 22 years. He was a member of the Baptist Church, Sertoma. Grange, Masons, and Eastern Star. He died in 1985.



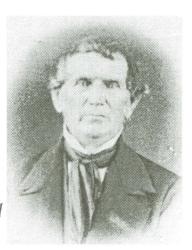
Charles Hill came from East Meredith about 1868. He had been a captain in the famous Anti-Rent War in Delaware County. His store was in the Yale Block, the site of Horton Hardware. The store burned in 1884.

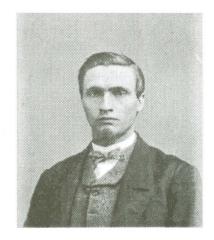




Miss Martha Graham, an aunt of Marshall Hill, had a millinery shop in Charles Hill & Son's store when it burned in 1884. She gave the bell for the Presbyterian Church.

Thomas Landers, son of Ebenezer and Olive Landers, was born in Lenox, Mass. in 1782.
Lepha Larabee Green, his second wife, was born in Vermont. They lived on upper Caswell Street.



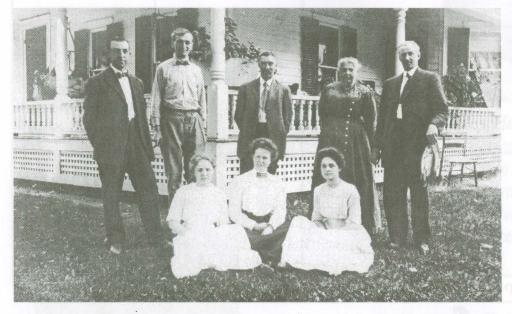


Delos Van Woert was the Afton Postmaster in 1890–94, and Justice of the Peace in 1905. In 1903 he notarized affidavits by two witnesses of the Mormon exodus in 1830.

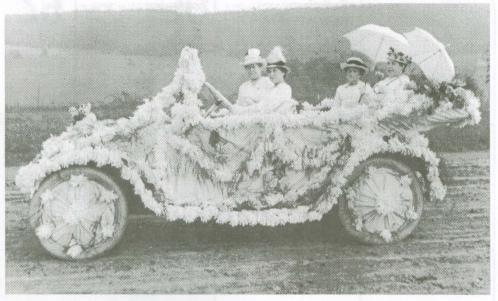




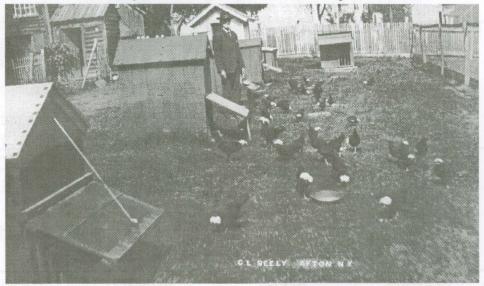
Kate Finch driving Afton Fair float. Wife of Olin Finch who had a pool hall in Afton.



Home of Herschel Slusser, first house on right up Pleasant Avenue. Harry Horton, second from left; Mr. and Mrs. Slusser on right.



Ruth Haven Decker, driving float at Afton Fair. From the Class of 1902, she was the daughter of Attorney George A. Haven. She married Clark Ely Decker. She was a member of D.A.R.



Charles LeGrand Seely, father of Isabelle Jennings and Celinda Carpenter, was a breeder of fancy white crested black Polish poultry and showed them over a wide area, winning many ribbons



Dedication of monument to Revolutionary War soldiers by D.A.R. in 1929. Noted in picture are Hannah Mudge, Grace Herkimer, Margaret Gregg. Children are Allen Herkimer, Jr. and Lucille Farnsworth.



Bathing beauties at Afton Lake. First on right thought to be Florence Carrington. Second is Julia Reed Peckham.



Afton Fair baby contest about 1911. Mother at far right is Daisy Hurd Decker, holding daughter Ruth.

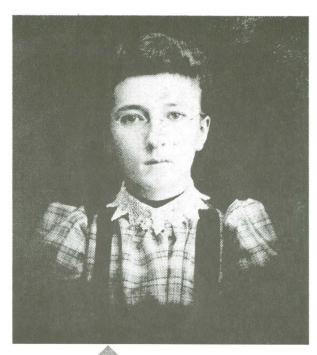


Red Cross ladies on lawn of Nickerson house, site of Jack Bolster Community Center. July 1918.



Anna Mary Van Woert, daughter of Delos and Esther P. Green. She married James Keel and they lived at the top of Spring Street. She died in 1955.

> Mattie Clapper, daughter of George and Sara Clapper. She graduated from Afton Academy in `1891 and was a member of St. Ann's Church. She married John Bagley.





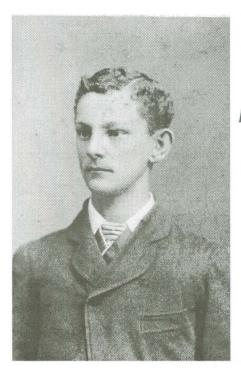
Mercy Stowell
Hull, daughter of
Abel and Elizabeth
Poole Stowell. After
moving from their
farm, they lived
in what is now the
Afton Museum. She
died in 1938.



Isabelle Seely Jennings, whose collections form the basis of the displays in the Afton Museum.



May Caswell married Dr. George Liggett, a Presbyterian minister in Springfield, N.J. They always kept the family home which is now Hope Church.



Samuel Frank Carpenter published the "Weekly Press" in the early 1880's. He first married Angie Derby. After her death he married Celinda Seely. He edited a newspaper in Carbondale, Pa. for many years.



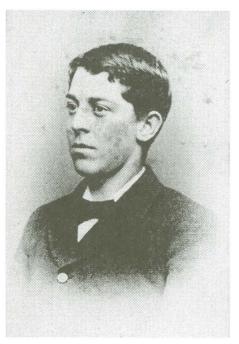
Frances and Eula Johnston, daughters of banker Enos and Frances Church Johnston of Bettsburg.



Nelson E. Barton founded the "Afton Enterprise" about 1880. He built the Enterprise Block on main Street after the fire of 1884. His home, "Walnut Place", now gone, was a showplace.



Maria H. Graham and her cow. She lived where Sadie Williams now lives on East Side. D. & H. tracks visible along cow's back.

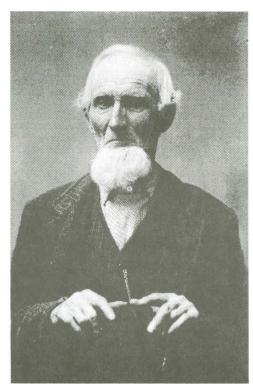


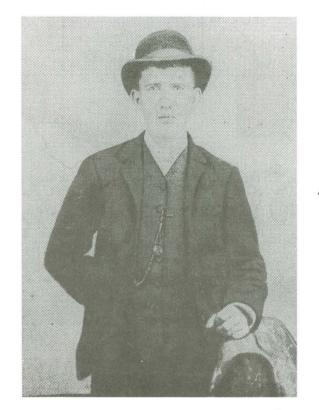
Arthur Carruth, noted baseball player on the Afton Town Team in 1884. His father was Rev. B.B. Carruth of the Afton Methodist Church.

Joe Bodley was a barber in Afton in 1902.



Erastus Fisher was Afton Town Supervisor in 1869. At one time he had a hotel at the corner of Maple Street and East Main Street.





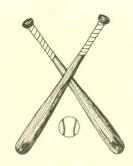
John K. Crawford was a cigar maker in Afton and lived in the Whitman Block. He died in 1941.



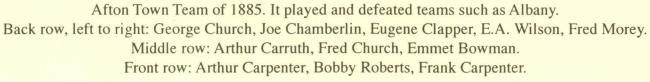
The Afton Historical Society

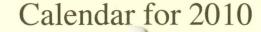
Remembers

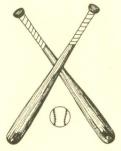
Afton Sports















The Sports Scene in Afton

Sports have played a prominent roll in Afton, especially in the school. In the early days of the Afton Union School and Academy, which began in 1874, and until Afton High School became Afton Central School about 1930, there was no place on school property for playing sports. With the expansion of the 1908 brick school in 1930, the first gymnasium was built.

In the 1880's, a town baseball team made a name for itself by defeating teams from larger and more distant places such as Albany. Games were played on a field on the site of the homes of Richard Lake and Norby Gregory on the East Side of Afton. Militia training and an older Afton Fair were also held there.

In the 1930's and early 1940's, sports consisted only of baseball, football and basketball. The only girl's sport was basketball.

Frederick Crane had a long career as sports coach of Afton, spanning 42 years of teaching. He was athletic director and assistant principal when he retired in 1972. Some of the 1940's football games may still be viewed on movies filmed by John Pluta.

Russell Conover came to Afton to teach in 1960 and became head coach in 1964. At that time there were no girl's sports, only cheerleading. He was responsible for the founding of the Varsity A Club, made up of athletes having a Varsity A letter. They raised money to support sports and established training rules. One fundraiser was the Afton Indians license plate in a year when New York required only rear plates.





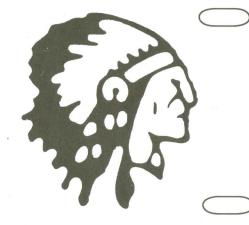
Jan Conover, Russ's wife, has been a great influence in sports since she came to Afton in 1969. The Girl's Varsity Softball Teams have won championships and titles over a period of 15 years. In 2009, the team won the NYS Class D Softball State Championship. Cindy Bostelman is the present girl's coach.

Football has become a casualty among boy's sports. Unable to support a separate team, Afton joined with Bainbridge-Guilford for a time, but that arrangement was discontinued.

In the intervening years, Afton Central School sports have expanded to include volleyball, bowling, tennis, track, swimming, golf, wrestling, cross-country, and girl's field hockey and softball.

By Charles J. Decker
President and Curator of the Afton Historical Society. July 2009.





Afton Indians front license plate for when New York had only a rear plate, about 1964. These plates were a project of the Varsity A Club. This was given by David Lockwood, Class of 1966.









Girls Basketball, 1934.

Seated, left to right: Margaret Grant, Olivia Miles, Doris King, Vina Francisco, Elizabeth Barr,
Margaret Whitmore, Argarete Finch,
Standing: George Sutton, Marion Morley?, Wahneta McCullough, Joyce Slawson, Vivian Nelson, Helen Clock,
Charlotte Bonnell, Helen Knapp, Fred Crane.





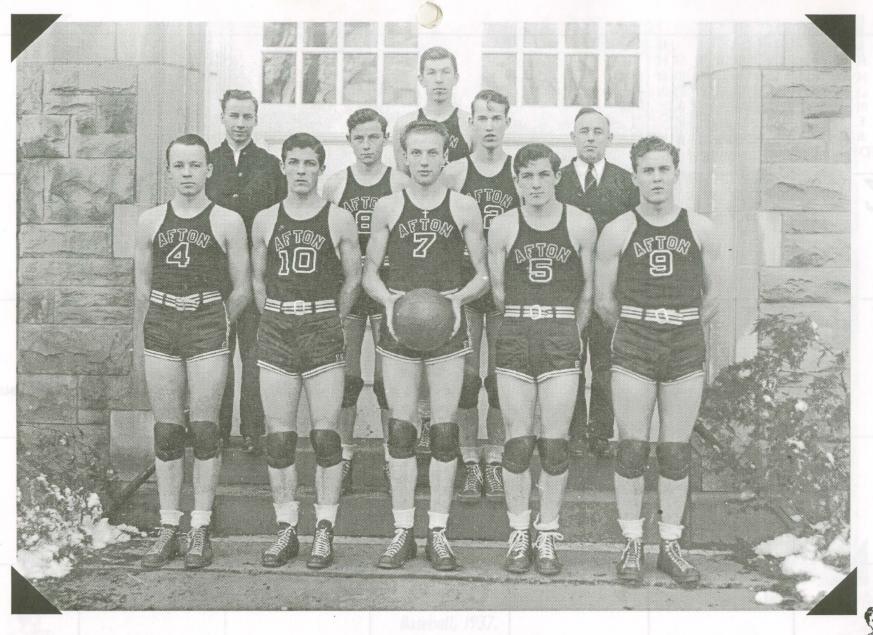


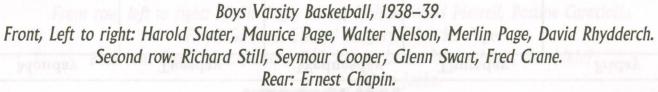
Baseball, 1937.

Front row, left to right: Merlin Page, Walter Nelson, Ward Merrell, Bastine Caraciolla,
Floyd Gilmore, Elwood Gregory, Maurice Page.

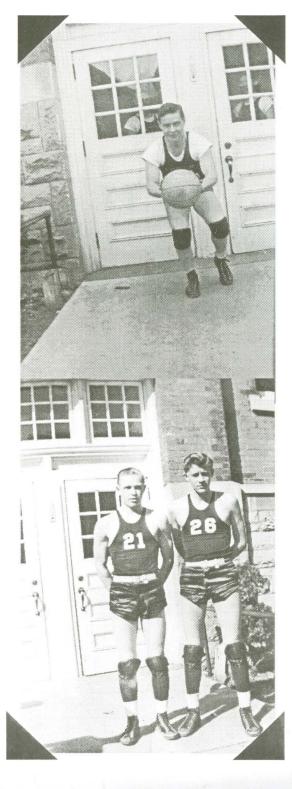
Back row: Fred Crane, Richard Still, Kermit Lewis, Robert More, Rex Male?,
_____, Alton Jenks.











Boys Basketball, about 1942.

Top left: Karl Helm.

Bottom left: Allen Herkimer, Jr., William Poole.

Top right: Louis Cooper.

Bottom right: Homer Sands, Eugene Crane.

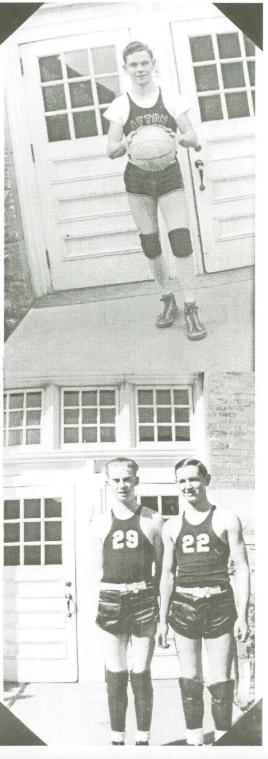
Bottom center: Cheerleaders. about 1943.

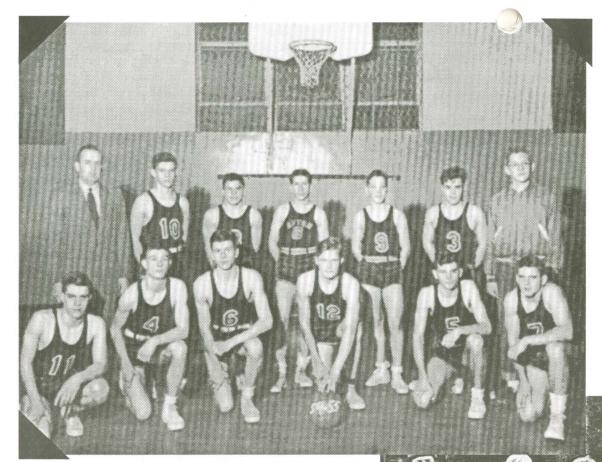
Jean Guy, Marjorie Dixon, ______?,

Marjorie Wayman.



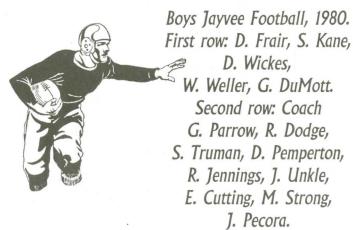






Boys Jayvee Basketball, 1955.
First row: S. Pierce, L. Pratt, T. Vail,
P. Cordes, G. Barr, H. Gohl.
Second row: H. Farley, R. Barr,
L. Dodge, A. Schultes, L. Kane,
R. Morrell, D. Renner.







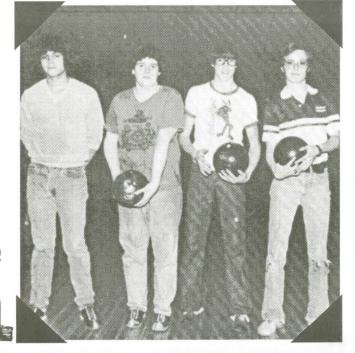


Manger M. Powers, J. Craver, C. Holdredge, B. Holdredge, L. Barbelsch, K. Wakeman (scorer). Standing: T. Pratt, D. Rudnitski, T. Zablocki, C. Lowe, K. Hansen, Coach Mr. Powers.

Boy's Bowling, 1981.
Front row: G. Lopez, R. Bolster,
K. Williamson, C. Kim.
Missing: J. Unkel, T. Phillips, P. Davy,
B. Oleshefski.



Girl's Bowling, 1981.
Front row: P. Hastings, L. Smith.
Back row: M. Tanner, P. Oleshefski, R. Strong, D. Closs.
Missing J. Brown.









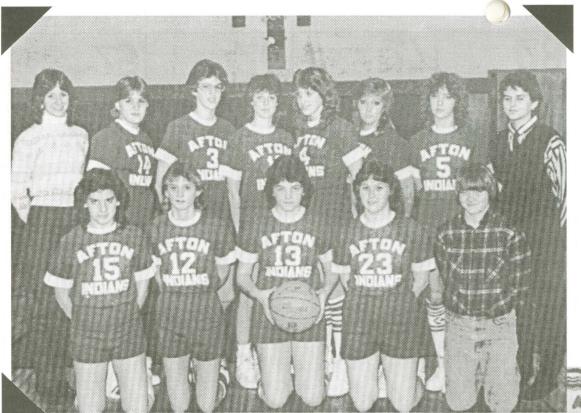
Boys and Girls Track Team, Spring 1984.

Front row: Coach Powers, Mike Stark, Jeff Schultes, Pat Dedman, Bernd Muessigbrodt,
David Galano, Tracy Barr (Manager), Michelle Weeks (Manager), Don Garrow.

Second row: Coach Conover, Becky Vroman, Charlene Garrow, Tom Reynolds, Fran
Blakesley, Angie Piscitello, Don Niles, Kathy Powers, Chris Knapp, Marcel Garrow.

Third row: Bruce Lipp, Mark Strong, Don Koster, Mark Stark, Frank Caratelli, Joe Piscitello,
Brian McMahon, Lonnie Garrow, James Teed, Marty Bachner.





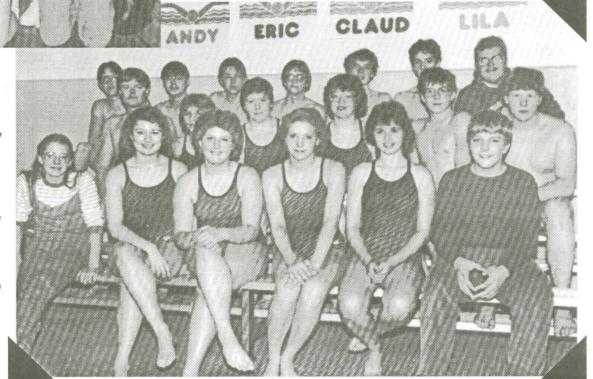


Girl's Basketball Jayvee Team, 1985.
Front row: Jodi Hogan, Shannon Dedman, Dale Ashley,
Penny Jones, Patti Nabinger (Manager).
Back row: Coach Flyzik, Christine See, Debbie Pinney,
Rhonda Guy, Wendy Witter, Collette Alford,
Janice Birdsall, Tracy Eitel.



Swim Team, 1985.
Front row: Lila Harris
(Manager), Nathalie Calbourdin,
Tina Miner, Florence Huizinga,
Patti Fenner,

Andy Buman (Manager).
Second row: Alan Utter, Donna
Callan, Heather Latham, Cathy
Blakesley, Joe Snell, Eric Kane.
Back row: Fran Blakesley, Steve
Collver, Mike Canaday, Brian
Barkalow, Mike Butts, Eddie
Williams, Steve Buman.





Girl's Tennis, 1992.
Kneeling: H. Cuthbertson, R. Knapp,
K. Vail, S. Minor, C. Nickerson.
Standing: Coach Hayes, P. Snel,
C. Oates, L. Isabell,
N. Holdredge, S. Klatz.





Boy's Golf, 2000.
Row 1: Mr. Decker, C. DeWolfe,
J. Jennings,
J. Wilkins, D. Kemmerer.
Row 2: M. Masse, P. Justofin,
R. Bunzey, B. Hanson. Missing:
J. Granger, T. Martin.



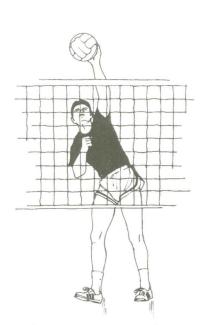


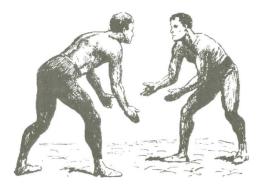
Wrestling Team, 2000.

Row 1: Mr. MacNaught, D. Mueller, B. Locke,
C. Foster, J. Burruss, T. Wormsley, N. Gural,
E. Finch, J. Stevens, G. George, Mr. Kelly.
Row 2: J. Washington, A. Montero, E. Fahringer,
J. Zieno, M. Kelly, J. Anderson, R. Smith.
C. Locke, B. Hopkins.
Row 3: B. Buttice, D. Winn, J. Granger,

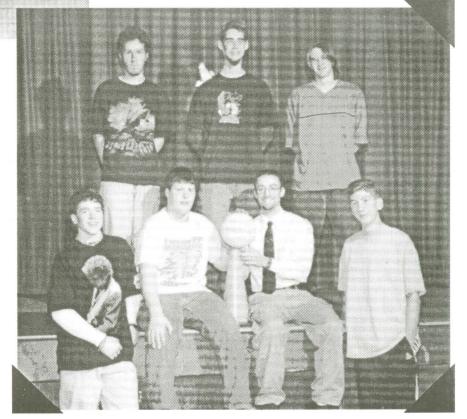
D. Baisley, D. Kemmerer, R. James, J. Miller, J. Ruff, D. Joines.

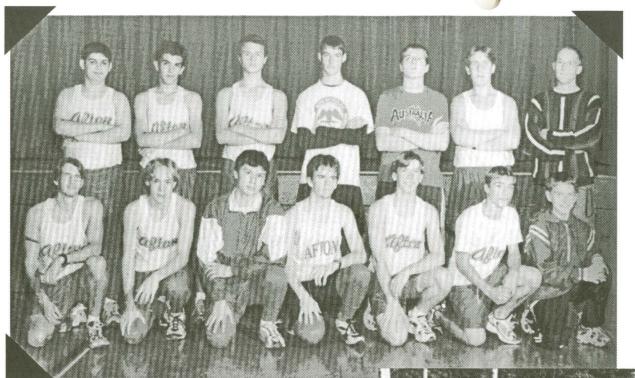
Row 4: C. Conpropst, K. Corson, T. Sohns. Missing: M. Cutting, B. Cutting.

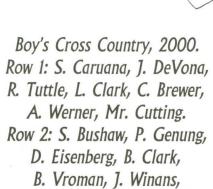




Boy's Volleyball, 2000. Row 1: C. LaForte, K. Ferguson, S. Bushaw. Row 2: M. Goodwin, J. Burruss, J. Hamilton, S. Azzarella.







J. Arnold.

282



Girl's Field Hockey, 2000.

Row 1: R. Kemmerer, K. Kelly, A. Sherman,
Mrs. Conover, B. Hansen, F. McGraw,
A. Denton, E. Akshar.

Row 2: L. Dwyer, K. Fisher, A. Cornell,
J. Akshar, E. Justofin, C. Bush.

Row 3: C. Kirkaldy





Afton Varsity NYS Class D Softball State Champions, 2009.

Back row: Kailee Granger, Taylor Briggs, Britney Patten, Harley Jennings,
Payton Cutting, Ashley Davy.

Middle row: Carolyn Ellis, Nicole Mulieri, Holly Andrews, Stephanie Parsons,
Stephanie Sherman, Abigail Martin, Jennifer Boudreau.
Front row: Ashley Winans, Jessie Winans.



AFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

HISTORICAL CALENDAR

THE HORSE 20 AND BUGGY DAYS

Afton Fair shortly after its beginning in 1890. Parked horses and carriages take up most of the grounds.

—Picture from Promeroy glass plate; Afton Historical Society

THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

The horse has been mankind's most useful animal. It is easily trained and a rider can control his steed by pressures from the knee and on the reins.

The horse had its origin about 65 million years ago as a dog-size animal about 10 to 20 inches high. It gradually evolved in size and shape of the foot until one million years ago when it looked more like the modern horse.

Horses existed on every continent except Australia. For some reason they disappeared from the Western Hemisphere, but were reintroduced when the Spanish Conquistadors brought them to Mexico in 1519. Indians began to use them for hunting and battle about 1600.

Members of the horse family, "Equus", include the donkey, mule, zebra, hinny, and onager. The number of horses on farms in the United States had declined to a total of 7,800,000 in 1971. Texas led the states with 625,000. In spite of these figures, I have read that the total number of horses exceeds that of the past with the many non-farm horses. In the Census of 1875, the Town of Afton had 42 colts and 579 horses two years and older. There were still 72 working oxen and steers in Afton.

Before the days of the railroad, by foot, by boat, or by horse were the only means of traveling from place to place. Horses drew some of the early trains and street cars, but were soon replaced by steam or electricity.

The Pony Express and the stage coach were the fastest means of communication until the telegraph linked the east and west coasts in 1861. A stage line connected the rail lines between Deposit and Afton for many years, making a round trip once a day. In 1902, a one-way trip took about 4 1/2 hours.

All farm work was done by horses in the early 20th century, except by an occasional steam engine. Two horses on a treadmill running a threshing machine is an impressive



George Tingley's race horse "Marching Dillon" held the track record at Afton from 1943 to 1973.

~ Picture from Frank Tingley. Afton Historical Society.

sight, as seen in a re-enactment. Doctors made calls, grocery deliveries were made, freight was driven to the depot, ice houses were filled, and courting was conducted, all by the power of horses.

American horses

("Traveller", a gray gelding ridden by General Robert E. Lee, and "Cincinnati", ridden by General Ulysses S. Grant, in the Civil War. "Seabiscuit", "Whirlaway", and "Secretariat" were household words as noted race horses. A famous trotter on the Afton Fairgrounds was "Marching Dillon", owned by George Tingley. He held the track record from 1943 to 1973.

Young people often drove a horse and buggy to attend Afton High School. Their horses were tied up for the day in the horse sheds of the Presbyterian Church across the street or at a local home for the week if the student drove from a distance and boarded in Afton.

The pace of life has changed very much since the horse and buggy days. Today one can drive to Binghamton in about 40 minutes in a comfortable car and on a smooth, all-weather highway. Statistics show that the fatal accident rate per mile driven in a automobile is less than for a horse-drawn vehicle.

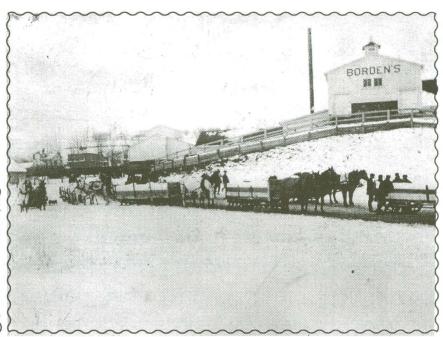
~By Charles J. Decker, Afton Town and Village Historian. March 2010.

Two famous



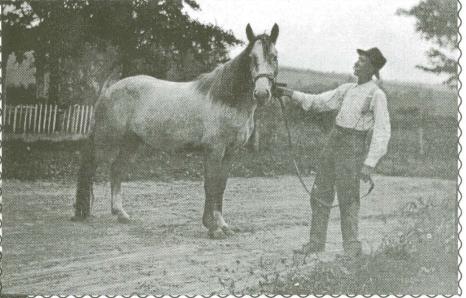
Ice harvesting at Afton Lake, 1926. The horse-drawn ice scorer is in the Afton Museum Barn, the gift of the Vail family. ~ Picture from Town Historian

Teams which brought ice to the Borden's Creamery in Afton (later the Dairymen's League). In 1916, 25 teams were hired to fill the creamery's ice house with 450,000 tons for the coming season. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.





Workmen and horses putting the finishing touches on the new steel bridge across the Susquehanna River in 1905. ~ Picture from Romeroy glass plate. Afton Historical Society,



Arthur Hurd of Tunnel proudly displays his horse. 1912. ~ Picture from Bassett Collection. Afton Historical Society.



Will Finch on Main Street. Odd fellows rooms over store and Afton Inn next door. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.

Presbyterian ladies
starting out for a
Missionary Society
meeting in February,
1926. Pastor, Doctor
J.J. Francis and wife
standing. Charlotte
Buckley far right sitting.
~ Picture from
Leonora Knox Decker.
Charles
J. Decker.

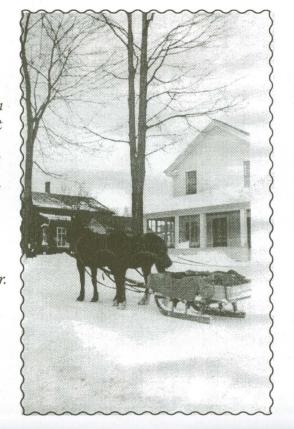


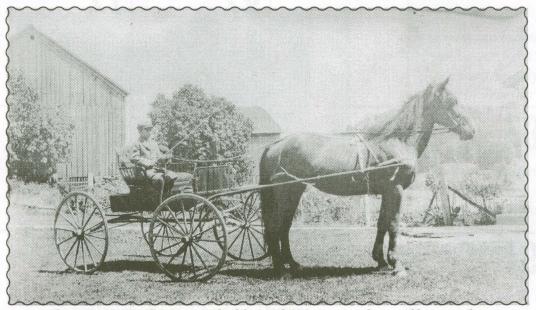


Snow on Main Street, probably the big storm of February 1926. Keator's Store in background. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album.

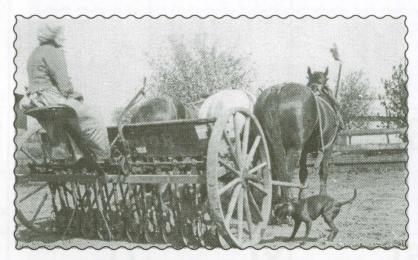
Charles J. Decker.

Team and sleigh on Spring Street in front of the former Richard Holdrege house. March 1940. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.





Arthur Grover in buggy, probably at the Coventry farm of his youth. ~ Picture from Jeanette Grover Meeker. Charles J. Decker.



Grain drill with three-horse hitch on old Grover farm in Coventry. ~ Picture from Jeanette Grover Meeker. Charles J. Decker.

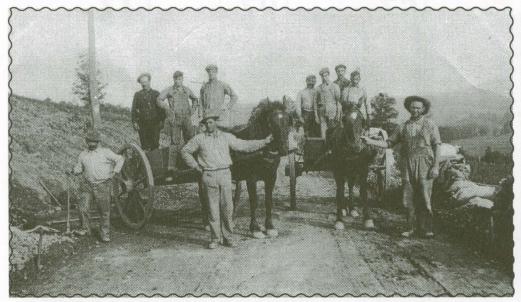


Members of the Ralph Chamberlin family in front of their home at the corner of Main Street and Pleasant Avenue.

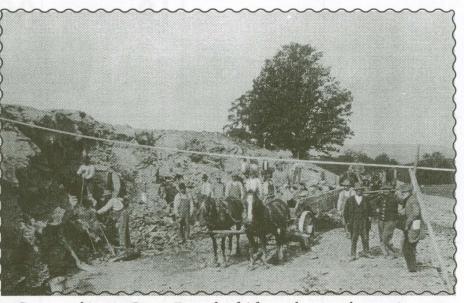
~ Picture from Chamberlin Collection. Afton Historical Society.



Pledge Partridge and his family. His shop was in the middle building, fronting the street before the Great American Store. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album.



Road crew on Route 7 when grade crossings were being eliminated. About 1914. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Crew working on Route 7 north of Afton when grade crossings were eliminated. About 1913. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Road crew paving Main Street about 1914. Horton Hardware in background. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Nineveh Junction in its heyday. Farmers brought their milk to the creamery. ~ From Isabelle Jennings Album. Afton Historical Society.



Charles Davey driving one of the elegant carriages made by the Hobbs Brothers of Nineveh. ~ From glass plate from Alice Davey.

Afton Historical Society.



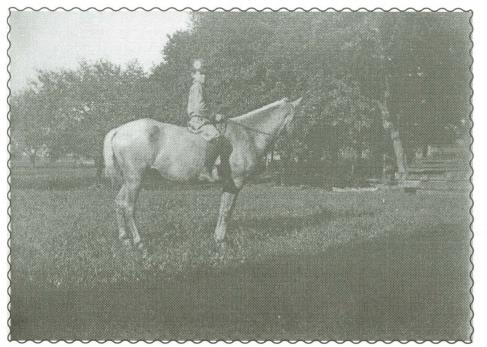
Amos D. Caswell and Abbie Follansbee Caswell enjoying a tour of the Afton Fair. ~ Picture from Pomeroy glass plate. Afton Historical Society.



Handsome horse and driver in front of the New York Bargain Store on Main Street. The Hair Salon is now in the same building which is known as the Whitman Block. ~ Picture from Pomeroy glass plate. Afton Historical Society.



A wagon load of members of the Scott family. Carl Scott and Nina Billings Scott at far right. Frank Scott standing in back of Carl. Carl and Nina were the parents of Mildred Scott. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles Decker.



Bernett H. Decker on Billy in 1911. Decker apple orchard in background. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.



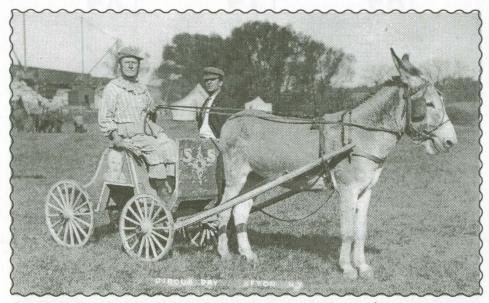
Frank Decker's horse Laddie in night pasture with neat split rail fence in background. 1922. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.



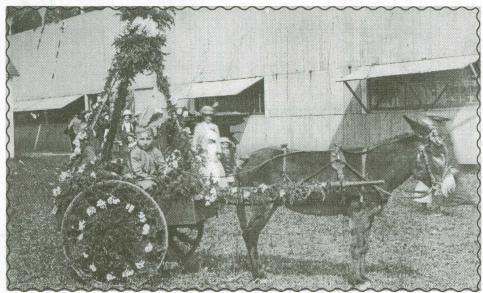
Ruth Decker (Braley) on Bess in the barnyard of the Decker homestead. The gate and fence boards were made from chestnut wood probably cut from the farm. Dated 1917. ~ From album of Daisy Hurd Decker. Charles J. Decker.

The "Trotters"
which were
used by Frank
H. Decker
when courting
Daisy Hurd in
Harpursville,
prior to 1901.
~ From Daisy
Hurd Decker
album. Charles
J. Decker.





Donkey-drawn cart at Circus Day on Afton Fairgrounds. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.



Everett Weeks on donkey cart at Afton Fair. The cart is now in the barn at the Afton Museum. ~ Picture from Afton Historical Society. From Leona Weeks



Downed horse on Afton Fairgrounds. First from right, Dr. Bolles, Veterinarian. Second from right, Charles W. Decker. Before 1919. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Group of children with their ponies on Main Street. Old bandstand in background. Boy at right is thought to be Jesse Benton. ~ Town Historian



Horses with load of sap cans at Decker sap house. Middle, Leonora Knox Decker, right, Daisy Hurd Decker with daughter Ruth. 1914. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.

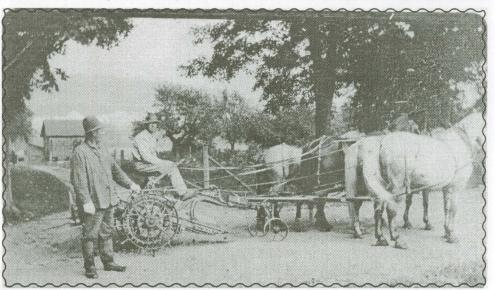


Loading hay before the days of the mechanical hay loader.

~ Picture from Town Historian.



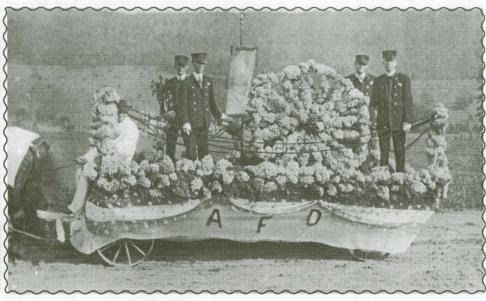
Bernett Decker mowing the creek lot at age 14. 1916. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.



Neighbor Homer Hawkins and Frank Decker with new potato digger bought jointly. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.



Dell Merritt driving float at Afton Fair. ~ Town Historian.



Afton Hose Company float at Afton Fair. Bruce Keator, Frank Sornberger, Whit McHugh, Clarence Eldred. ~ Town Historian.



The Afton Citizens Band at the Afton Fair. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.



Womens' Christian Temperance Union float at Afton Fair. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album. Charles J. Decker.



Delivery wagon for Keator's Store at rear of building seen from Spring Street. ~ Picture from Bruce Keator album. Afton Historical Society.



Bert Lord conducted a logging business, converting the logs into mine props and railroad ties. The picture shows a team skidding logs from the woods. ~ Picture from John Gregg. Afton Historical Society.

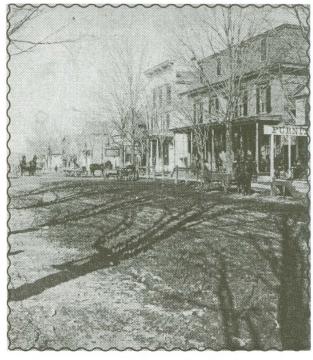


Keator's horse and buggy in front of their barn on Spring Street. ~ Picture from Bruce Keator album. Afton Historical Society.



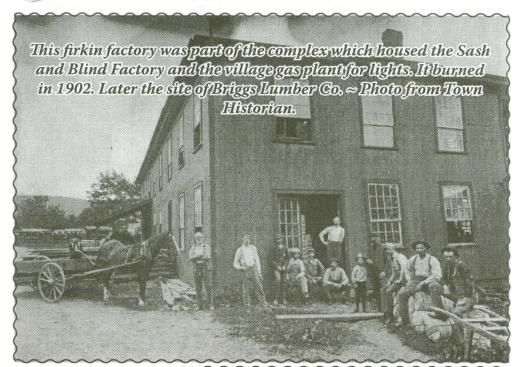
Jerome Clark with his steam engine and threshing machine set up on South Main Street in Afton about 1904. The scene would be about opposite the old Crowley Creamery near Chuck Male's Jockeyport Livery Stable. Horses were still needed to haul the steam engine. ~ Photo from Pomeroy Collection glass plate.

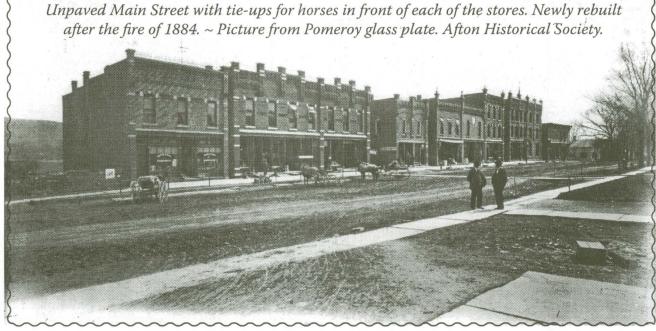
Afton Historical Society.



Main Street in 1874.

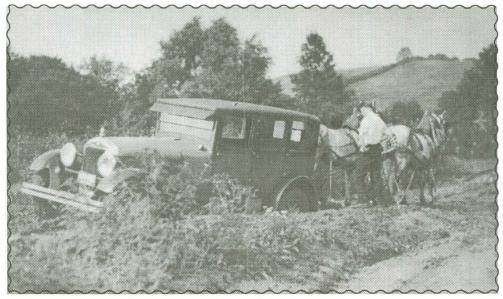
Before the fire of
1884 which destroyed
every building in this
picture. Marcus D.
Howard's furniture
store at right. ~
Stereoscope card
from Charles L. Seely.
Town Historian.



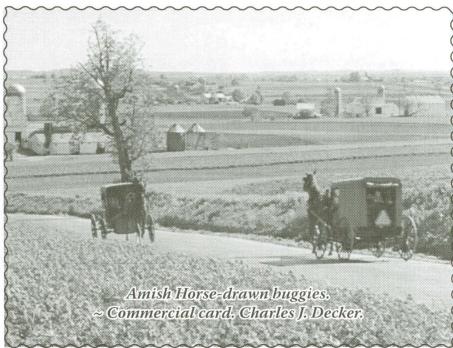




D.C Wilson store on Main Street before the fire of 1884. Notice the plank crosswalks. About 1874. ~ Stereoscope card from Burt B. Hyde. Afton Historical Society.



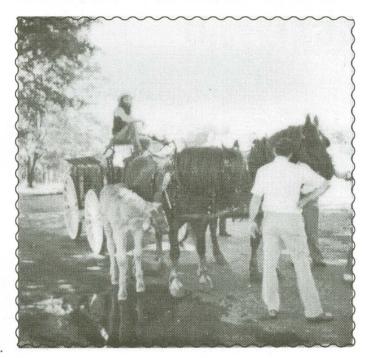
Sometimes horses had to rescue automobiles stuck in the mud of unpaved roads. ~ Picture from Town Historian.





Avelda Daly and driver at Afton Fairgrounds for celebration of the Afton Town Centennial in 1957. ~ Picture form Town Historian.

Chuck Male and his team of horses which are a modern day attraction. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



The Sacrifices Made by Soldiers and Others in the Civil War



John Burton Woodruff on a G.A.R. float at the Afton Fair before his death February 16, 1933, aged 87 years. He was the last Civil War veteran living in Afton to die. He enlisted as a volunteer in Co.B, 5th Reg. of Artillery on September 5, 1864 and was mustered out at Harpers Ferry June 22, 1865. He is buried in Yaleville Cemetery.

Calendar for 2012

Afton and The Civil War

The Civil War was one of the most terrible conflicts in the history of our nation. Casualties were extremely high, not only from battlefield deaths, but also from infections and diseases contracted in the field and in military prisons. Some of Afton's dead were returned to local cemeteries, but others are buried in the localities where they fell. In the one, Battle of Antietam, more men were killed than in all of this country's previous wars. Families were divided in loyalty, especially in the border states. Jedediah Hotchkiss of Windsor had moved to Mossy Creek, Virginia, before the war and became a map-maker for General Stonewall Jackson. He is prominently featured in the Stonewall Jackson House Museum in Winchester.

The war was costly in money for the Town of Afton. The Town Clerk summarized expenses in 1865. Amounts were:

Bounties	\$56,230.00
Recruiting Fees, Hand-Money	\$772.66
Support of Families of Soldiers	\$242.35
Interest on Town Loans	\$4,675.99
Total for War Purposes	\$61,921.00

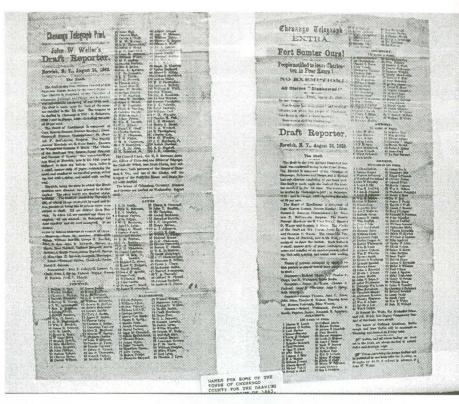
Bounty men recruited for the towns. From \$300 to \$1,000 was paid to each recruit if the bounty man were honest. He might get the recruit drunk, sign him up, and then give him only part of the money or none at all. Most of the Navy men signed up for Afton's quota in 1863 had New York City addresses. They probably were recruited in this way. The war caused much hardship and loss of life on the battlefield, but also caused hardship on the home front. In a largely agrarian society, enlistments and the draft left a great shortage of able bodied men to run the farms. Women, children, and older men had to fill in with hard labor. If a soldier were disabled, the situation was not much better on his return home. If a soldier died, pension money could be applied for, but was hardly adequate. The war was a disaster for everyone in many ways.



The Battle of Cedar Creek, Va., started out as a disaster for Union troops, but turned into a rout for the Confederates. It began in the early morning of October 19, 1864 and continued until evening. The 114th Regiment, of mostly Chenango County troops, was a part of the 19th Army Corps, 1st Division, first Brigade. The total Corps had 31,610 men and 90 guns. Of these, 560 men were killed, 3025 were wounded, and 1770 were captured. Many of them were taken to Salisbury Prison,

Major General Philip H. Sheridan, who rallied his troops to win the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864. (Picture from "Campfires and Battlefields" by Rossiter Johnson, 1967).





Sarah Rosetta Wakeman posed as a male soldier, Private Lyons Wakeman in the Civil War. From Afton, near the Stevens Cemetery on present Rte. 235, she enlisted in the 153rd Reg. N.Y.S. Volunteers. While fighting in the Red River Campaign in Louisiana, she became ill and died of chronic diarrhea in a hospital in New Orleans on June 19, 1864. She is buried in Chalmette National Cemetery in New Orleans. (Picture from "An Uncommon Soldier" by Lauren Cook Burgess).

First two listings for the draft of 1863. Names drawn by lottery. Printed by "Chenango Telegraph" of Norwich. (Afton Town Historian)

The 114th Regiment consisted of men mostly from Chenango County. Robert Richter of Greene has compiled a very comprehensive directory of that regiment. It suffered the following casualties:

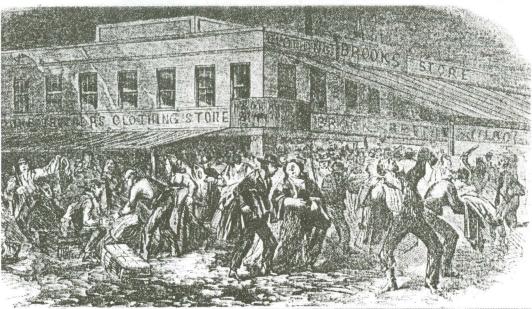
Killed: 9 officers

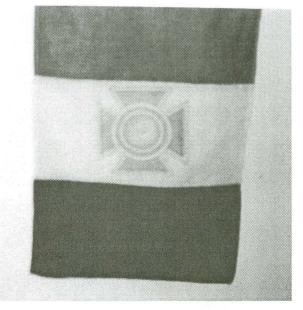
112 Enlisted men

Died of Disease: 2 Officers

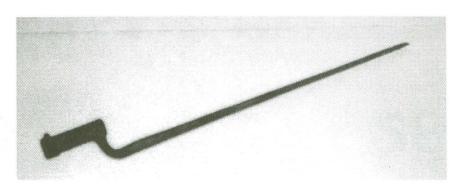
192 Enlisted Men

A levy of 3,000 men was called for in April, 1863. The quota was not filled in New York City, so the draft went into effect on July 11. Newspapers claimed that the draft was unconstitutional, arousing the populace. The draft, police, national government, and the Negro population all became targets of the New York Draft Riots which continued over three days. Policemen injured-50; policemen killed-3; people killed by rioters-18; rioters killed-over 1200. About 50 buildings were burned, Property destroyed was valued at about 2-3 million dollars. (From "Campfires and Battlefields" by Rossiter Johnson, 1967).





Small red, white and blue flag with insignia of the Woman's Relief Corps. Many of the objects of the Woman's Relief Corps and the Grand Army of the Republic were given to the Afton Historical Society by the W.R.C.

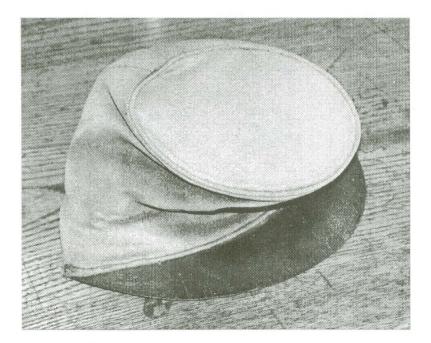


Civil War bayonet made to fit a rifle. Probably of European manufacture. (Afton Historical Society. From Charles Decker).

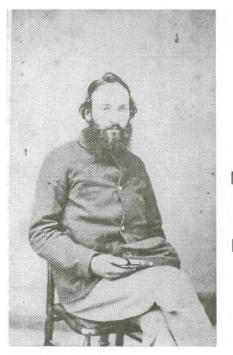


Civil War powder flask made from brass.

(Afton Historical Society. From Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott.)

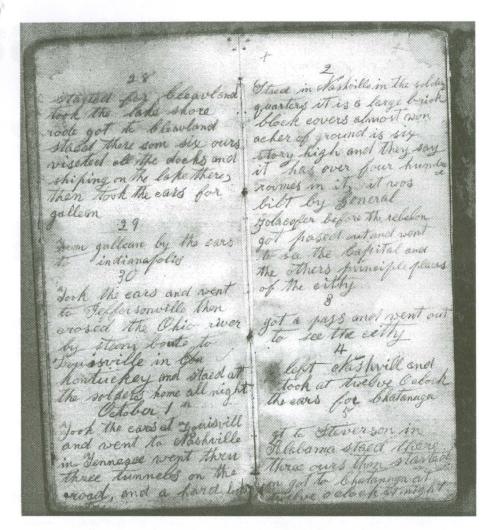


Civil War Union soldier's cap. Missing its insignia. (Afton Historical Society. From Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott).



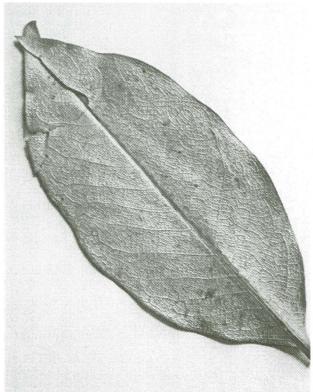
Shervin F. Estes of Perch Pond was mustered in at Binghamton on August 30, 1864 and mustered out on June 9, 1865. He belonged to Co.L, 137th Reg., N.Y. Infantry. He served in the Army of the Cumberland. He kept a diary which has been transcribed by Nick Caldiero. He is buried at Perch Pond. (Picture from Erma Estes. Afton Historical Society).





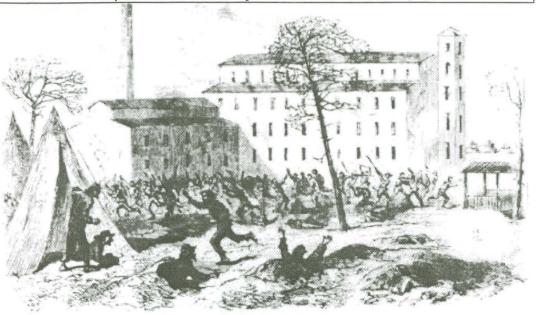
Pages from Diary of Shervin F. Estes of Perch Pond. Entries are from September 28 to October 5, 1864. The entry for the 30th is "Took the cars and went to Jeffersonville then crosed the Ohio River by steam boute to Louisville in Kontuckey and staed at the solders home all night". Spelling as written.

One of two Civil War blankets carried by Shervin Estes. (Afton Historical Society. From Erma Estes).



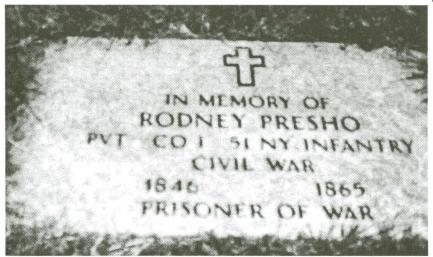
Leaf from a
Magnolia tree
planted on the
burial trenches of
Salisbury Prison,
N.C., where several
local soldiers
were imprisoned
and died. (Afton
Historical Society).

This is an artists rendition of the "Massacre of the Union Prisoners attempting to escape from the Salisbury Prison on November 25, 1864.



Massacre of Union prisoners at Salisbury Prison, N.C., on November 25, 1864.

On November 25, 1864, Union prisoners tried to escape from Salisbury Prison in North Carolina. There was a lack of food, little shelter, extreme cold, and overcrowding with transfers from Andersonville. Over 250 prisoners died from cannon fire and wounds. (From "Campfires and Battlefields" by Rossiter Johnson, 1967).

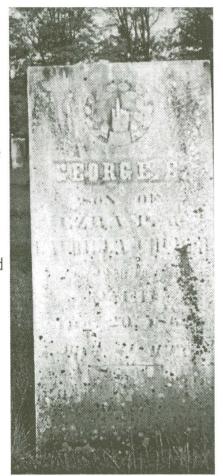


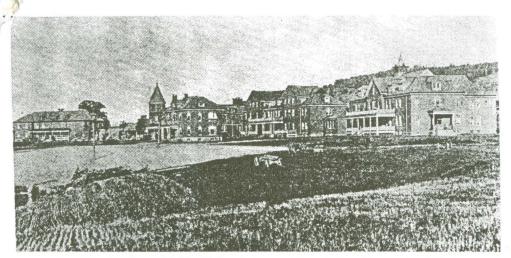
Marker for Rodney Presho placed on the Soldier's Lot in Glenwood Cemetery in 2008. He enlisted at Norwich on August 26, 1864 in Co.I, 51st Reg., Infantry. He was captured at Poplar Ridge Church, Va. on September 30, 1864. He died January 17, 1865 at Salisbury Hospital, N.C. There is no further record, but it is assumed that he is buried in the trenches there.

(Picture by Charles Decker. Afton Historical Society).

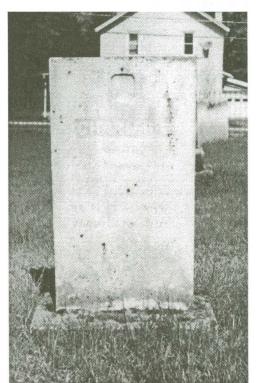
Orrin W. Terry was honored by the Afton Historical Society in 2008. He enlisted for 3 years at Afton, Company G, 5th Regiment of Heavy Artillery. He was involved in engagements at Harper's Ferry, Halltown, Barryville, Winchester, Fisher Hill and two at Cedar Creek. Three of his brothers also served in the Civil War. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

George E. Church was in the 61st Reg., N.Y. Infantry. He was wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks, Va. on June 1, 1862. He died in a hospital in New Haven, Conn., on August 20, 1862. His body was brought here for burial. His brother Charles, also a soldier, is buried beside him. They were honored in 2009. (Picture by Charles Decker).

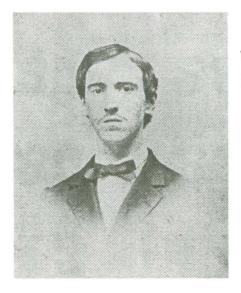




The Veteran's Home in Oxford was originally the Woman's Relief Corps home for veterans and their wives. It opened in 1897. The old buildings have since been replaced by modern ones.



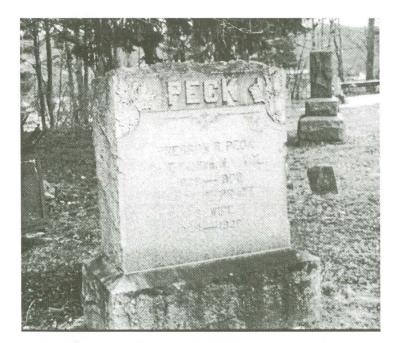
Charles E. Church enlisted at
Bainbridge on December 25, 1863,
in Co.C, 5th Reg., N.Y. Calvary. He
was captured at Parker's Store,
Va. on May 5, 1864 He died at
Andersonville, Ga. on August 16,
1864. He is buried beside his
brother George in the East Side
Cemetery. They were honored by
the Afton Historical Society in 2009.
(Picture by Charles Decker).



Presson R. Peck was a member of Co.E, 114th Reg. N.Y. Volunteers. He was wounded at the Battle of Port Hudson. He was presumed dead and left on the field. He recovered and after the war he was in partnership in the Peck Mills at Middlebridge. (Picture from Town Historian).

Marker erected by Afton Historical Society in First Baptist Church Cemetery in May, 2010, to honor George E. Luther. He served in Co.G, 5th N.Y. Heavy Artillery. He was captured at the Battle of Cedar Creek and died of diarrhea in Salisbury Prison.





Monument of Presson R. Peck in Glenwood Cemetery. Served in Co.E, 114th Reg., N.Y. Vol. Honored by Afton Historical Society, May, 2011.

Confederate fortifications before Port Hudson. Presson Peck was wounded at that battle.



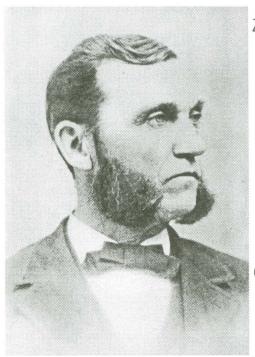


Delos Rowe is buried in Perch Pond Cemetery. He was a private in Co.E, 114th Reg. Inf. He lived 1832-1906.

Hanford D. Rowe was a private in Co.E, 114th Reg., N.Y.S.V. He is buried in Lot 106 in Glenwood Cemetery. He lived from 1834 to 1903.

Homer D. Rowe is buried in Lot 126 in Glenwood Cemetery. He was a member of Co.H, 49th Reg., Mass. He lived 1837 to 1903.

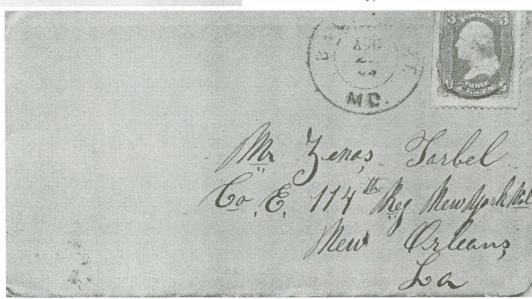
Certificate given to Seymour Rowe when he was appointed Aide de Camp for the Commander of the Department of New York of the G.A.R. Seymour and his brothers, Delos and Hanford, all from Perch Pond, served in Co.E, 114th Reg. N.Y. Infantry. Brother Homer served in Co.H, 49th Reg. Mass. (Certificate loaned by Homer Rowe, grandson Seymour Rowe).



Zenas H. Tarbell enlisted at Afton on August 12, 1862. He mustered in as a private in Co.E, 114th Reg. Infantry. He was promoted to Corporal on April 1, 1865. Mustered out June 8, 1865. He had a meat market in Afton and became Sheriff of Chenango County, 1898. (Picture from Afton Masonic Lodge. Afton Historical Society).

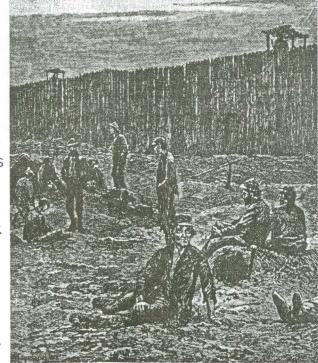
George A. Haven enlisted in Co.A, 52nd Reg., Illinois Volunteer Infantry in August 1861. He reenlisted October 15, 1863 and was captured on November 1, 1863. He spent time in Bell Island, Andersonville, and Charleston Prisons. He became a lawyer who represented the pro's when the Village of Afton was incorporated. He died November 17, 1936, later than John Burton Woodruff, but had moved from Afton. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. (Picture from Afton Masonic Lodge. Afton Historical Society).

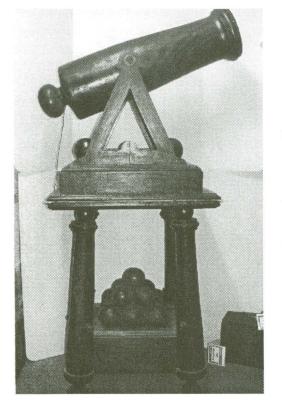




Letter from Hanford D. Rowe to Zenas Tarbell at New Orleans. Zenas had known Hanford at home. Hanford was a nurse at the U.S. Army Hospital in Baltimore when he wrote the letter. (Letter from Town Historian).

Prisoners at Andersonville where George A. Haven spent some time after being captured on November 1. 1863. Conditions were terrible there with little food and shelter. (Picture from "Campfires and Battlefields" by Rossiter Johnson, 1967)





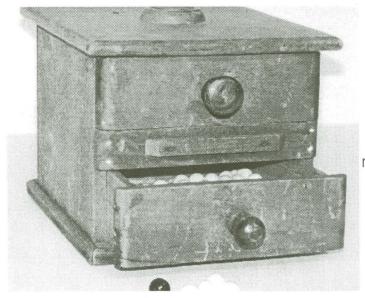
Wooden cannon on stand with wooden cannon balls. Was in meeting room of the Afton Grand Army of the Republic. It was in a building in the present parking lot back of the Main Street businesses. (Gift of the Woman's Relief Corps. Afton Historical Society).

American flag in cemetery standard for G.A.R. members. There are many of these in our area cemeteries.

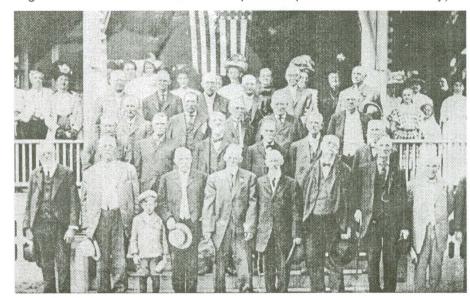
(From Afton Historical Society).



Gathering of G.A.R. members at an unknown place, but said to be Afton. Purchased at an area antique shop. Matted and framed by Gordon Knapp whose grandfather, Rufus Lord, is in the picture. (Afton Historical Society).



Ballot box of the G.A.R. It contained many white balls and a few black balls. The organization disbanded about 1920. (Afton Historical Society).





L. Coe Young enlisted in Co.B, 56th Reg. of Infantry at age 17. He served in every battle of the Army of the Potomac. After the war, he lived in Binghamton and worked for the D.&H. Railroad. He was a very active member of the G.A.R. and spoke over a wide area, especially on Decoration Day. (Picture from L. Coe Young scrapbook. Afton Historical Society).

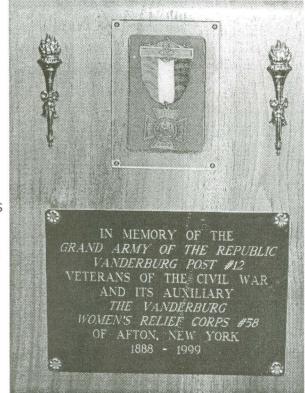
Desk from the rooms of the G.A.R., given by Woman's Relief Corps. (Afton Historical Society).





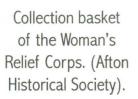
G.A.R. flag in frame. (Afton Historical Society).

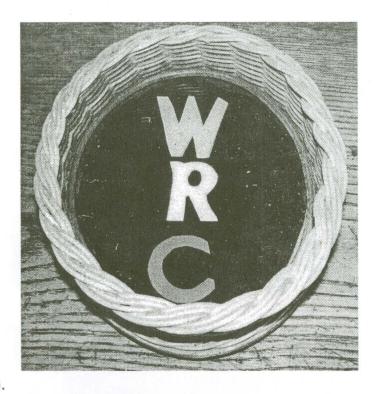
Memorial plaque for the G.A.R. Vanderburg Post #12 and the Vanderburg Woman's Relief Corps #58, both in Afton. (Afton Historical Society).



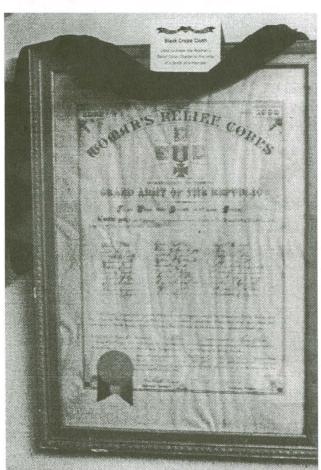


Thelma Brown,
longtime head of
the Woman's Relief
Corps of Afton. She
also held a state
office. (Picture
from Afton Historical
Society).

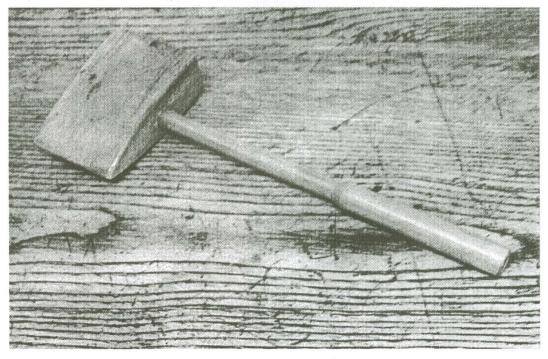




Gavel presented to the Afton Woman's Relief Corps by Martha Swart. (Afton Historical Society).



Charter of the Afton Woman's Relief Corps, dated February 10, 1894. It was the Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic. The black crape material is an indication of mourning. (From W.R.C. Afton Historical Society).





Monument erected by the
Daughters of Union Veterans
in 1940 in Glenwood
Cemetery. Congressman
Edwin Arthur Hall spoke at
the dedication ceremony.
The identity of Eliza Girvan
(Girvin) is not known.
(Picture by Charles Decker.
Afton Historical Society).



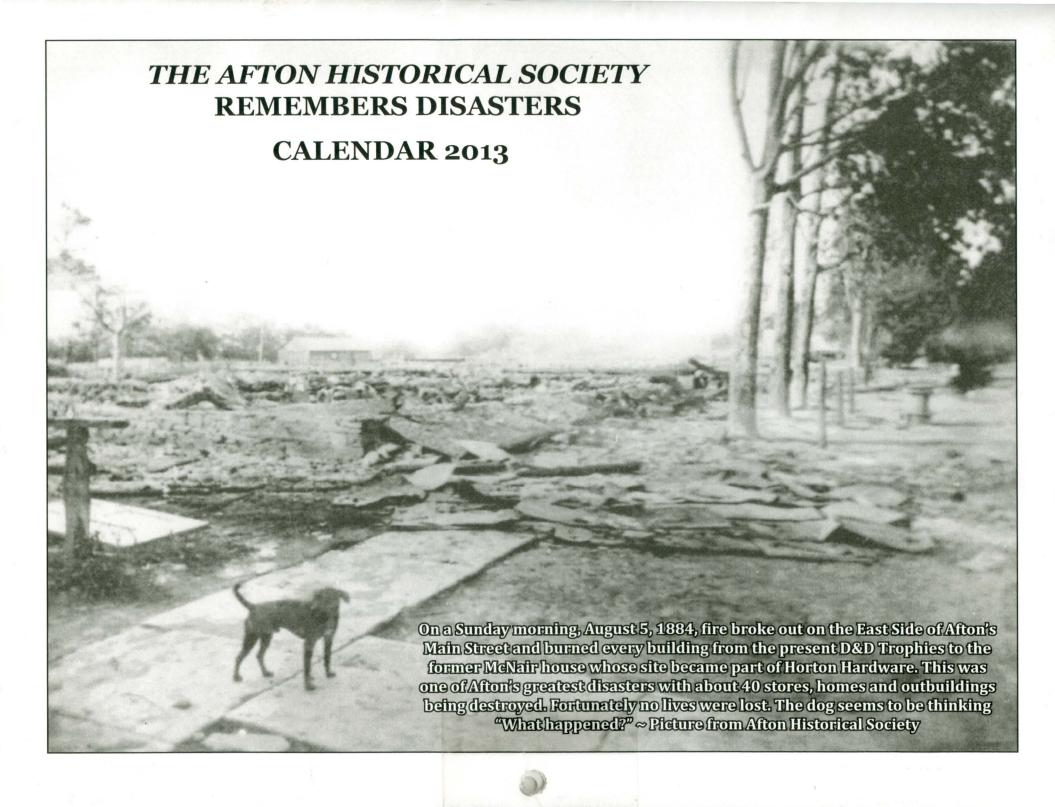
Float of the Daughters of Union Veterans at the Afton Fair. (Picture from Afton Historical Society).



Medallion of the Daughters of Union Veterans. (Afton Historical Society).

Cyrus Lamb enlisted in Co.F, 70th New York Volunteers Infantry. He is buried in the "Soldiers Lot" in front of the D.U.V. Monument next to his fellow soldier, Moses Tuttle.

Moses Tuttle enlisted in Co.E, 114th Regiment New York Infantry. At some time he transferred to Co.F, 70th New York Infantry. He is buried in the "Soldiers Lot" in front of the D.U.V. Monument.



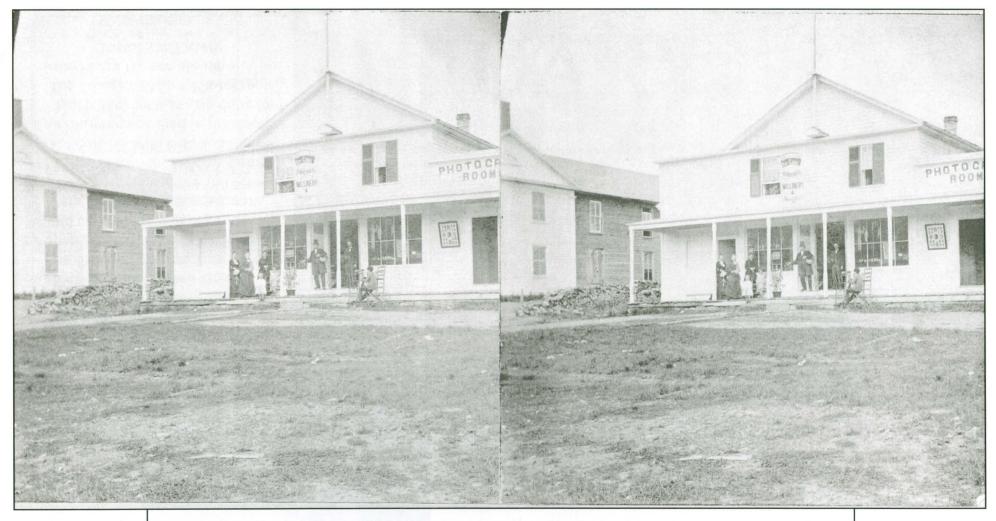
Afton and its surrounding area have had their share of disasters. These include fires, floods, train wrecks and automobile accidents. Floods are recorded in pictures over most of the 20th century and up to September of 2011. Fortunately, loss of life has been slight.

Fire has been very destructive, especially in the Village of Afton. The greatest disaster was the Great Fire of 1884 which destroyed most of the business section on the east side of Main Street. The brick business blocks which replaced those wooden buildings are mostly still standing today. Across the street, a wooden block burned the next year. The V.F.W. occupies part of that brick replacement.

The flood down Bump Creek in 1902 caused the deaths of three of the members of the James Cook family. Their rooms on the top floor of the former Taft Mill fell into the stream when the building collapsed. Recent floods, in 2006 and 2011 have done much damage to area homes.

Car, truck and train accidents have taken their toll in lives. The greatest tragedy of that category occurred when eight passengers in a car driven by Jacob Lord drowned when the car rolled backward into the Susquehanna River in the Middlebridge area in 1933.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when rail traffic was at its height, hardly a week passed without notice in the Afton Enterprise of an injury or death on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. These deaths were of trainmen, pedestrians, or drivers of other vehicles.



This was the Jackson and Chaffee Store in the 1860's. In this stereoscope view, the building is occupied by a milliner and a photographer. In 1885, fire leveled the wooden building and it was replaced by the brick structures which include the V.F.W. headquarters. ~ Stereoscope card from Charles Decker.



The Taft Mill had manufactured furniture and stood just below the old metal bridge which led to Long Hill. It had recently been purchased by Mr. James Cook. He and his wife and infant son lived in quarters on the third floor at the time of the disastrous flood which destroyed the building on July 19, 1902. ~ Postcard picture from Town Historian.

The site of the Taft Mill after the flood which destroyed it on July 19, 1902. Heavy rains on Saturday had caused streams to rise. The mill dam on Bump Creek, upstream from the Taft Mill, broke and carried the mill of J.W. Seeley and its contents downstream. The debris caused the Taft Mill to collapse into the stream. James E. Cook, his wife Bell, and their 9 month old son died in the flood. Much damage was also done in the Village of Afton. Photograph from Harry Horton album. ~ Afton Historical Society.

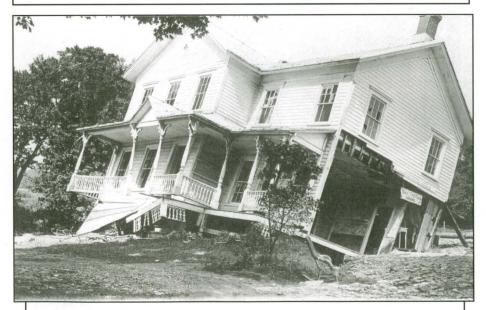




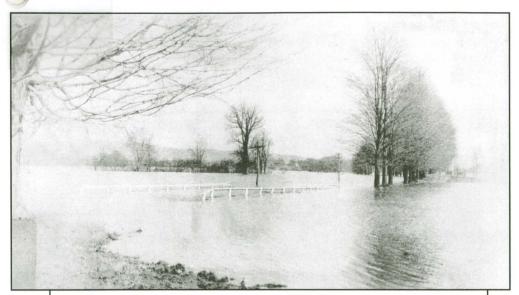
Scene on Caswell Street about in front of First Baptist Church after the flood of July 19, 1902. Photograph from Harry Horton album. ~ Afton Historical Society.



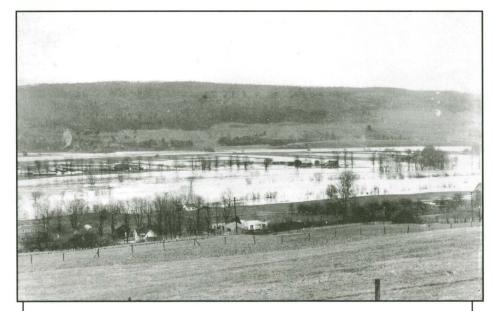
Susquehanna River on East Side south of Afton. Flood of 1926. ~ Photo from album of Daisy Hurd Decker.



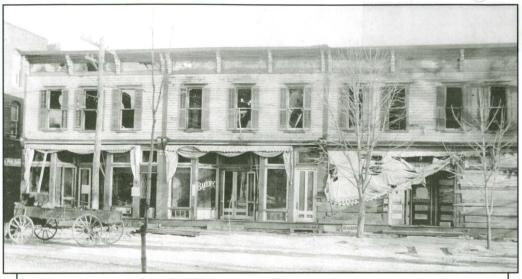
"The Crazy House" in Smithville Flats tilted to this position in the flood of July 8, 1935. It was on a small tributary of the Chenango River. It was a tourist attraction until it fell into decay. ~ Postcard from Town Historian.



View looking up the Susquehanna River toward Afton in 1934 or 1935. Probably between former Renner farm and Whitson farm on East Side. ~ Photo from album of Rex Tracy.



View of the area around the farm of Dan Grant taken from the hillside above Route 7 in March, 1938. Most of the valley land is covered with water. ~ Picture from Afton Historical Society.



A fire in 1914 damaged a row of wooden buildings just to the south of the old Village Hall. A bakery was in the middle one. The store in the right was razed, but the other two were repaired and served businesses until they were torn down in 1971 along with the Village Hall to make room for the new Village Office and Library and the Harris Foodliner, now the Great American.

~ Picture postcard from Town Historian.

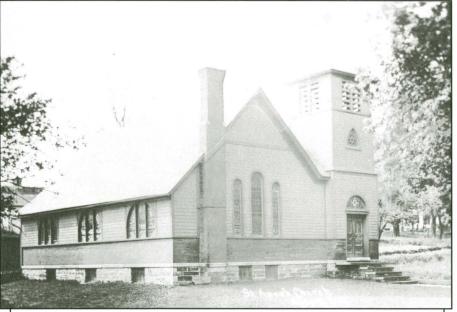


The Grand Union store on Main Street burned on November 25, 1969. Fire companies from Afton and Bainbridge extinguished the blaze, but the building was a total loss. The NBT Bank building and the Ernstrom Insurance building, adjoining the store were saved, but had excessive smoke damage.

Many turkeys, on hand for Thanksgiving, were prematurely roasted. ~ Afton Enterprise. Nov. 26, 1969



In July of 2002, one of the barns on the Dale Grover property burned. The cause was unknown. The picture was taken from the Charles Decker property before the Afton Hose Company arrived. A metal barn replaced the wooden building. ~ Photo by Charles Decker.



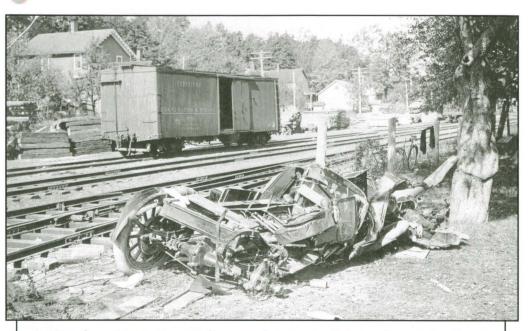
The original church building for St. Ann's Episcopal Church was consecrated on October 1, 1868. On August 3, 1890 it was struck by lightning and completely destroyed. The new building was consecrated on October 6, 1891. ~ Picture from Sharon Fowler, Greene. Town Historian.



This tank truck plunged off the bridge over the Susquehanna River in Afton on January 8, 1945. The driver, Elmo Daniels, apparently from Norwich, was pinned by steelwork of the walkway under the ice and drowned. Picture by J. Ward Williams. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Smashed sedan, no date. From scrapbook of Dennis Jeffers Fuller. ~ Afton Historical Society.



In October, 1913, Guy Wylie was driving in Bainbridge at the Scott Street crossing when his car was struck by a train. Mr. and Mrs. Wylie and two of their children were in the car. Young John Wylie was killed and his father died the next day. Other passengers were inured but survived. From seeing the wreckage, it is a wonder that anyone lived. ~ Postcard from Charles Decker.



Tractor trailer accident on Route 7 between Afton and Bainbridge. May, 1941. No one was injured. ~ Afton Historical Society.



The Susquehanna River flood of 2006 did much damage in the whole valley. Roads were closed for about 3 days and many homes were complete losses. This picture of Dale Grover's cornfield back of the Charles Decker home shows the row of trees on the riverbank with flood waters covering much of the field. The loss of the crop was severe where water stood.

~ Photo by Charles Decker.



In the flood of June, 2006, a small, unnamed stream next to the home of Dan and Linda DeVona on Route 7, south, brought tons of rock down from the side hill. The rocks were deposited in their yard, on Route 7, and on the D.&H. Railroad tracks across the highway. About 150 dumptruck loads of the rocks were removed. The D.&H. tracks were closed three weeks. The DeVona house is at the right and the yellow center line of Route 7 is at the front. The original stream bed is off to the left of the photo. ~ Photo taken and furnished by Linda DeVona.



Flood waters flowing across Maple Street in front of the Country Store Sunoco station on Sept. 10, 2011. The water was not quite as deep as in 2006, but damage to some houses was extensive. ~ Picture from Doris Stone.



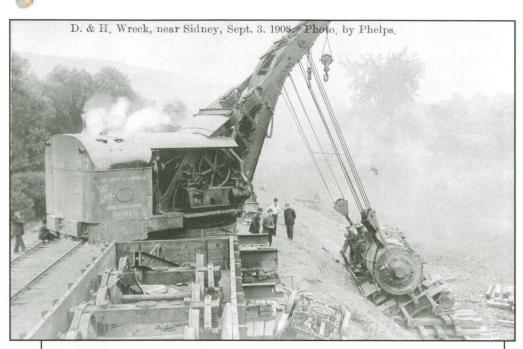
Flood waters surrounding buildings on the grounds of the Afton Fair and Driving Park. The water did not attain the depth of three feet in the bottom of the grandstand as it did in 2006. ~ Picture from Tri-Town News.



This wooden railroad bridge collapsed on October 18, 1882, dumping an engine into the stream. This picture is from a stereoscope card with the title "Views of Oneonta and Vicinity". ~ From Town Historian.



Delaware & Hudson train wreck. Clearing up the wreckage. Site and date not given. ~ Snapshot from Afton Historical Society.



Delaware & Hudson train wreck near Sidney on September 3, 1908. Photo by Phelps. ~ Postcard from Town Historian.



Delaware & Hudson train collision on October 18, 1922, place unnamed. ~ Postcard from Town Historian.



This large, early 20th century house on Sand Street burned in 1991. At one time Dr. Doan Meacham had his home there and began his medical practice about September 1, 1937. It had been divided into apartments and several families lost their homes. It is now the site of the parking lot of the Afton United Methodist Church. Picture from Walter Rose. ~ From Afton Town Historian.



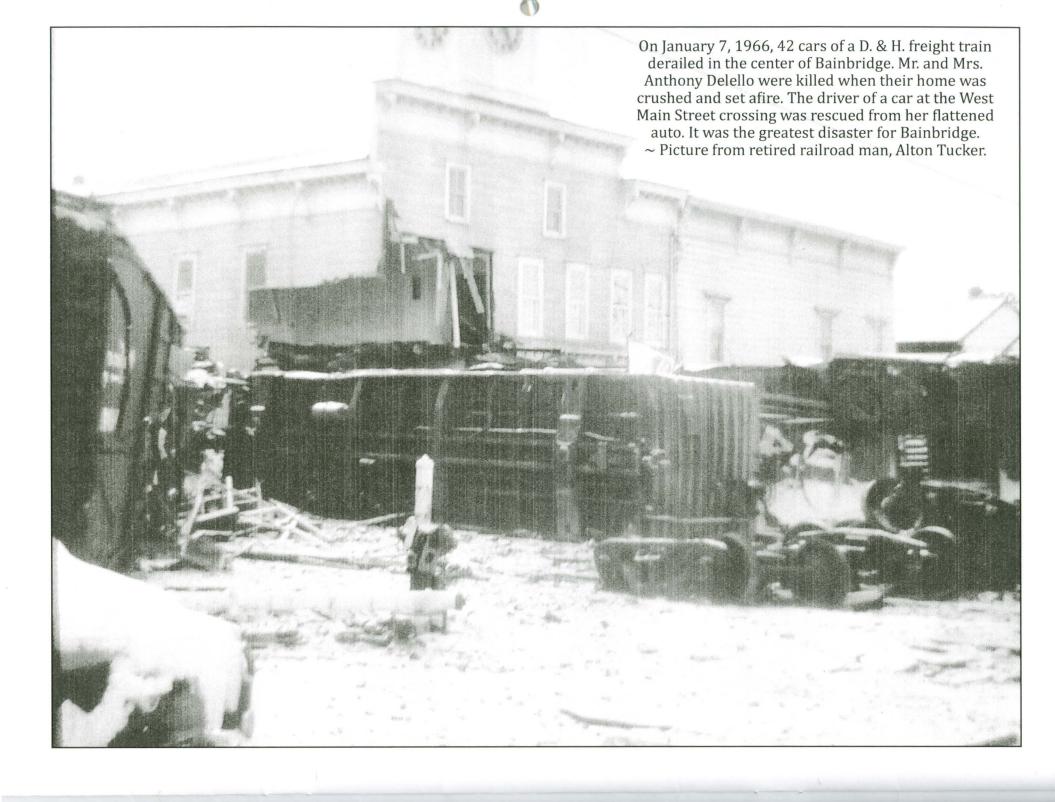
The River Valley Inn in Nineveh burned on November 23, 1970. It was known as a dance hall tavern and a favorite eating spot. At one time it was known as the "Tank and Tummy" diner. Fire companies from Colesville, Ouaquaga, Harpursville and Chenango Bridge were unable to prevent complete destruction. ~ Picture from Afton Town Historian.



The Church family homestead on Afton's East Side was one of the oldest houses in the town. The Churches were Vermont Sufferers. The house was badly damaged by fire in 1994. It was finally burned completely by the Afton Hose Company. Successive owners were Victor E. Gregory, Frank Faulkner, Fritz Schultz, and John Pierce. Some doors were salvaged and are in the Afton Museum. ~ Photo by Charles Decker.



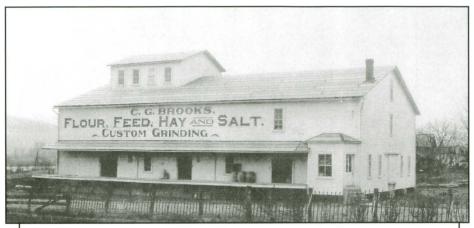
On June 1, 1983, a gas-powered delivery truck caught fire and went off the road in front of the home of Emma E. Riker on Route 7 between Afton and Nineveh. The house was destroyed, but gas cylinders on the truck did not explode. The house in this picture replaced the burned one. The original house had at one time been the home of R. Chamberlin. ~ Picture by Charles Decker.



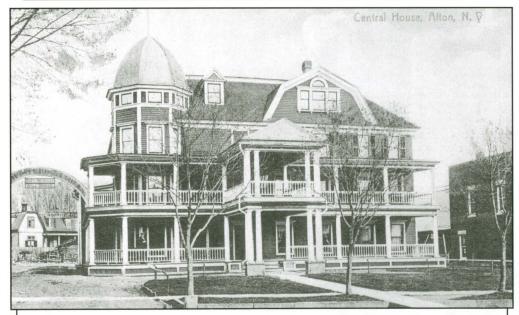


The greatest loss of human life in Afton occurred on October 26, 1933. Jacob Lord and wife Leora were taking their children Lewis, Ardene and Austin and also Elsie Eldred, Mrs. Lord's sister, and Avis Huston to a Halloween party at the home of Fred Springsteen, near Middlebridge. They stopped to ask directions at the house of Otto Warner. When backing down the driveway, Mr. Lord lost control and went into the Susquehanna, drowning all occupants of the car. Picture from Tabor Funeral Home, Afton.

~ Afton Historical Society.



The C.C. Brooks Feed Mill later became the headquarters of the M.J. Mudge and Son Feed Mill. A.A. Mudge and Sons were successors. After the sale to McDowell & Walker, the building burned on Decemebr 1, 1975. ~ Picture from Afton Historical Society.



The Central House, later the Afton Inn, as it looked after being rebuilt after the fire of 1898. Before that, the Sullivan House stood on the spot. It replaced a building erected on the spot by Alpheus and Josiah Wright. It burned in 1877. Postcard published by Wesly C. Handy, Afton. Dated October 23, 1908. ~ From Town Historian.



Nelson E. Barton was editor of the "Afton Enterpise" from about 1880 to 1898. He built the "Enterprise Block" after he was burned out in the fire of 1884. He built this fine home on South Main Street. It burned several years ago.

~ Picture from Afton Historical Society.



Fire damaged the Afton Inn on May 30, 1942. Several people were injured, but no one fatally. Dave and Avelda Daley were the owners. Snapshot from Mildred Callen. ~ Afton Historical Society.



The Pollard Mansion stood on Main Street about where Route 41 crosses Route 7 and becomes Maple Street. In Greek Revival style, it was built by early settlers of the Pollard family. The house burned in 1876. It was the most elegant house of Afton.

Picture from Ernest Poole. ~ Town Historian.

The Afton Historical Society Remembers WOMEN OF AFTON



2014 CALENDAR

Married ladies picnic at Afton Lake, about 1904. ~ Picture from Town Historical.

WOMEN OF AFTON

In the past, women have sometimes been skipped over in our history. Some of the county histories such as "The History of Chenango and Madison Counties, New York", by James Smith, published in 1880, wrote copiously about the accomplishments of male citizens. However, quite often the wife is only Mrs. Jones or Nellie Jones, with no maiden name or much more than where she was born. Usually, before modern times, she was just a housewife, even though a farmer's wife did much hard and strenuous work. Even in the 19th century census records, the mates had their occupations listed and where they were born. The wife has only the listing of her birthplace and no maiden name. If she were unmarried and had an occupation such as milliner, that night be listed in a directory.

The women in this calendar cover a period from the mid 19th century to the late 20th century, so we see the changes that have taken place, especially in dress. The progression from elaborate anklelength skirts and frilly blouses and large, ornate hats to jeans and no hats is obvious. Hats are not even worn to church any more. Even though we sometimes have little information about what women did, we have surviving photographs, so we at least know what they looked like.

We hope that this calendar will help us to pay tribute to the hundreds of women who have lived in Afton and in the surrounding area. We owe much to them.

~By Charles J. Decker, Afton Town and Village Historian.



A group of Afton Red Cross women in front of the Nickerson House, now the site of the Jack Bolster Community Center.

During World War I.

~ Picture from Grace Herkimer.



Mr. and Mrs. Burt Hyde at their home on Locust Avenue. ~ Picture from Town Historian.

Bride and groom Leola Makely and John Camp. He had a blacksmith shop on South Main Street. ~ Picture from Town Historian.





Mr. and Mrs. Rufus
Smith. He was a harness
maker and poultry
breeder. His harness
shop was on the site of
St. Agnes Church and
his home across the
street became the Afton
Hospital. ~ Picture from
Town Historian.





Anna L. Coulter. Her family lived in the house across from the Kelsey Tavern, later owned by Margaret McCulley. Next to present Northeast Realty. Dated 1886. ~ Picture from Isabelle Seely Jennings.

Eugenia Hobbs, daughter of Jonas Hobbs of the Hobbs Brothers Carriage Factory in Nineveh. Graduated from University of Michigan. Married E.T. Taggart. ~ Picture from Isabelle Jennings.



Isabelle Seely Jennings, whose collections form the basis of the displays in the Afton museum. ~ Picture from Town Historian.





Agnes Humphrey graduated from Afton High School in 1897 and then Oneonta Normal School/ She taught school in Santa Barbara, California.

~ Picture from Town Historian.



Identical twins, Alice Dodge and Marie Dodge Eckler, daughters of Dr. W. Lee Dodge. They were both teachers. Which is which? ~ Picture from Town Historian.

Mrs. Nellie Skillman Crain and son. Her husband, Joseph Henry Crain, owned the "Afton Enterprise" in the early 20th Century.



Bernice Decker and Viola Gregory, girlhood friends. They had been members of the Campfire Girls. Dated 1918. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album.



Mildred Bisbee
Decker, Syracuse
graduate who
taught at Afton
High School two
years. She later
was gas pumper,
ice cream dipper,
and bookkeeper
for her husband
Bernett's business.
About 1923.
~ Picture from
Town Historian





Nellie Merrell and her daughter Mildred.

Nellie was telephone operator from her home on Main Street. Mildred worked in the Afton Post Office and eventually became Postmaster.

~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album.

Bessie Guernsey Van Dusen. She and her husband built the small bungalow on the bank of the Susquehanna River opposite the Wagner-Nineveh lumber yard between Bettsburg and Nineveh.

~ Picture from Town Historian, Dated 1913.



Nurse Mrs. Chandler with infant
Sylvia Adah Decker, born December 23,
1928. Mrs. Chandler had a maternity
home across from St. Anne's Episcopal
Church on Main Street. She later
married Amos Tuckey and lived
in Bainbridge.
~ Picture from
Daisy Hurd Decker album.





Mrs. John Junkin Francis. Her husband was Pastor of the Afton Presbyterian Church from 1912 to 1922. She was very active in community affairs. ~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album.



Sarah Bennedum Pomeroy
making ice cream. Her
husband Lee Pomeroy
worked at Mater Oil across
from their home on South
Main Street. The Bennedum
Family still has a key and
lock business in Binghamton.
~ Picture from
Town Historian.



Celia Landers Liggett and May
Caswell Liggett, sisters-inlaw who lived in the Liggett
house, now Hope Church at
the corner of Main Street and
Pleasant Avenue. Celia married
John Liggett and May married
Dr. George Liggett, pastor of
the Springfield, New Jersey,
Presbyterian Church. Dated July
1955. ~ Picture from Liggett
Family album.

Emily Alma Craig, sister of Darwin Craig on right, He was an Afton Lawyer and insurance man, Her father was crossing guard in Afton.

~ Picture from Town Historian.





Zilpha Sackett
Dimorier was a sister
of Florence Sackett
Carr, longtime Afton
School teacher. She
married William E.
Dimorier. ~ Picture
from Daisy Hurd
Decker album.



Alice Taggart. Was member of the Presbyterian Church where she founded the Missionary Society. ~ Picture from Town Historian.

Charlotte Morgan Bulkeley. Second wife of Robert Bulkeley. Was a teacher, beginning in Coventryville, finally in Corning. Lived later life on Locust Avenue in Afton. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Lizzie Grant lived with Alice Taggart on Main Street. Attended the Presbyterian Church, Relative of Postmaster, Dan Grant. ~ Picture from Town Historian.





Farewell party for Emma
Edgerton at Afton Presbyterian
Church, 1938. The Edgerton
sisters lived next to Afton
Central School and were
active in the church.
~ Picture from Daisy Hurd
Decker album.



Attorney Paul E.
Brown and wife
Blanche Parsons
Brown, parents
of Thelma Brown.
Picture taken
in 1943.
~ Picture from
Town Historian.

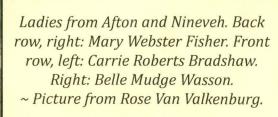


Nora Decker Guy and Randolph Chamberlain Guy. He at one time had an insurance agency on Main Street. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Rhea Holcomb. Her family once ran the Schohanna Restaurant on Main Street.

~ Picture from Mary Parsons.







Bathing beauties at Afton Lake. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Mercy Stowell
Hull, daughter
of Abel and
Elizabeth Poole
Stowell. After
moving from
their farm, they
lived in what is
now the Afton
Museum. She
died in 1939.



Dedication of the monument to men of Afton who had served in the Revolutionary War. Local and area members of the Daughters of the American Revolution were present. 1929. ~ Picture from Town Historian.

Mrs. Maria
Graham who
lived at corner of
Maple Street and
Riverside Drive,
looking toward
D&H tracks.
~ Picture from
Norman Briggs.





Afton Fair baby contest about 1911. Mother at far right is Daisy Hurd Decker, holding daughter Ruth. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Women of the Eastern Star organization on a float at the Afton Fair. Early 20th century. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



D.A.R. float at Afton Fair in 1915. Mrs. Ruth Haven Decker driving with Mrs. Fred Church beside her.

~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album.



"Old Reliable" float at Afton Fair, early 20th century. Kate Finch driver, Flossie LeSuer passenger.

~ Picture from Daisy Hurd Decker album.



Mildred Scott on her 80th birthday. A party was given at her home by friends. She was active in the Afton Historical Society.

~ Picture from Town Historian.



Mildred Bisbee Decker, Daisy Hurd Decker, and Mary B. Lavender in the Bernett Decker living room. Mrs. Lavendar was a neighbor of Daisy on Main Street in Afton. ~ Picture from Town Historian.



Daisy Hurd Decker on her 103rd birthday at the Susquehanna Nursing Home in Binghamton. 1981. ~ Picture from Town Historian.

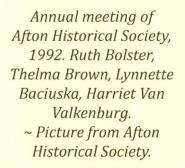


Irma Ruhser Decker, nurse in Dr. William Crull's Hospital in Afton and at Dr. Gelder's Clinic in Sidney.~ Picture from Town Historian.



Ann Tobey and her mother, Mary Tobey, on the occasion of planting maple trees at the Afton Museum in honor of Mary's 90th birthday.
2002.

~ Picture from Town Historian.







Olive Bassett, daughter of Birney and Addie Clapp Bassett. He had a greenhouse and raised celery and strawberries where Doris Stone now lives. They moved to Mississippi. ~ Picture from Afton Museum.



Harriet Carr Van Valkenburg with desk from the Town Clerk's office of her relative Henry Carr. The desk is now in the Afton Museum.

Harriet taught school as her career.

~ Picture from Afton Museum.



Lt. Ruth Gregory.
She married
Commander John
A. Gregg.
~ Picture from
Afton Museum.

Lt. Carrie Ingalls of the Army Nurse Corps. She married Robert Shupe of Afton. ~ Picture from Afton Museum.





Avelda Daly and driver at Afton Fairgrounds for celebration of Afton Town Centennial in 1957.

~ Picture from Town Historian.

Leona Hill, daughter of Afton merchant,
Marshall G. Hill, wrote the pamphlet,
"The Beginning of Mormonism".
She married George Stratton of Oxford.
~ Picture from Hill album, Afton Historical Society.



Lilian Kniskern Lord and a group of grade students from Afton School. Most of the girls wear hair ribbons and most of the boys wear ribbon neckties. Picture from Town Historian.

CALENDAR FOR 2015

CLOTHING OF CHILDREN AND BABIES

Human clothing has changed drastically over the years, including that for children. Of course, for formal photographs, the children wore their very best outfits, not their everyday clothes. Informal snapshots show their everyday wear.

Formal wear for small children at the turn of the 20th century had little difference between boy and girl costumes. Both had long white dresses with lots of lace trim. Both might have long curls with hair ribbons. As with adult clothing of earlier time, extra care was needed to keep the lace and ruffles presentable. Many costumes were made at home. Dry cleaners were not yet available.

In the 1900's, especially during the Great Depression, everyday clothes for girls were sometimes made from flour sacks, designed especially for that use with a printed pattern. Boys wore overalls for everyday and going barefoot in warm weather was the norm. Church and special occasions were the occasions for "dressing up".

For swimming, children and adults wore outfits which left only their arms and legs bare. Some people wear less on the street now than they once did for public swimming.

~By Charles J. Decker, Afton Town and Village Historian. April 2014.



Junior Class in 1920, apparently all teenagers who wanted to look alike.

Not in order: Nila Birdsall, Celia Carr, Ruth Foote, Frances Gates, Viola Gregory,

Minnie Hunt, Mildred Merrell, Marie Nickerson, Guy Williams, the only male. The rear,

right-hand woman is apparently a teacher-advisor.

(Picture from "The Aftonian, a Year Book", 1920)



Philip Gregory, son or Victor and Dorathy Gregory. Picture from Charles Decker.

Walter A. Landers. Son or Asa George and Julia Marie Partridge Landers. Born in Bainbridge in 1901, died in youth in 1915. Picture from Afton Historical Society.



Paul Estes, age 1
year, 2 months.
Maurice Estes,
age 3 years, 2
months. Picture
from Afton
Historical Society.

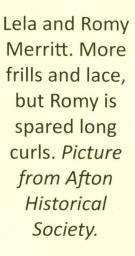




Alden Arthur
Mudge, Jr. at age
6 months. Son
of Alden Mudge,
Sr. and Hannah
Maycock Mudge.
Future co-owner
of A.A. Mudge and
Sons Feed Store.
Picture from Daisy
Decker album.



Ethel Proper,
Decker relative
from Jefferson,
NY. Has hair
nicely curled
with a curling
iron. Picture
from Charles
Decker.





Gene Elenore
Simonds at 22
months, 1922. The
parasol was to keep
off the sun, not the
rain. Picture from
Afton Historical
Society.





Leila Gould,
wearing a fancy
hat trimmed with
ostrich feathers.
Picture from
Moon/Pearsall
album. Afton
Historical Society.



Marion, Sylvia,
Mildred and
James Bisbee of
Susquehanna.
Sylvia (Austin),
Mildred (Decker),
and younger sister
Becky (Sutton) all
married and lived
in Afton. Picture
from Charles
Decker.

Ruth Chamberlin, age 6 years, 1902.
She was Afton's school nurse.
From
Chamberlin/
Liggett album.
Afton
Historical Society.



Marshall Hill as a baby. Son of storekeeper Charles Hill. He became a partner with his father and later was owner of the Afton Inn. Picture from Hill album, Afton Historical Society.





Julian Thayne
Hurd, younger
brother of Daisy
Hurd Decker.
Drowned in
Susquehanna
River on July 19,
1908, age 16.
Picture from
Daisy Decker.



Esther Permelia Green, age 14 years. Wearing floor length dark dress. Picture from Van Woert album. From Town Historian.

Nettie Gile.
Beautiful long
curls. Picture
from Van Woert
album. Town
Historian.



Marshall Hill. Son of storekeeper Charles Hill. He became a partner with his father and later was owner of the Afton Inn. Picture from Hill album, Afton Historical Society.





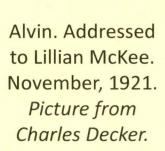
Belle Hill was
the daughter of
Marshall and
Rubie Avery Hill.
She wears a long
scalloped edge
petticoat. Picture
from Hill album,
Afton Historical
Society.



George
Mudge
in Indian
costume.
Picture from
Daisy Decker
album.

Joyce Tiffany, neighbor of Frank and Daisy Decker on Main Street. She died at the dentist office when in fifth grade. Picture from Daisy Decker album.









Marion McKee (Cook), George I. McKee, and Dorothy McKee (Buenau), children of George and Lillian Decker McKee. Picture from Charles Decker.



William (Billy)
and Jean Austin,
both graduates
of Afton Central
School and
Decker cousins.
Photo from
Charles Decker.

Cousins Jeanette
Grover and
Charles Decker in
Grandma Decker's
flower garden.
Photo from
Charles Decker.





Lena Yaple King and Bertha Philley King. Probably from Sanford. Picture from Afton Historical Society. Jack Edward
Fiske. 2 years
old in 1913.
Relative of
Daisy Decker.
From Daisy
Decker
album.





Ready for a swim at the Moak cottage on the river bank of the Decker farm. Ellery Decker, unknown woman, Permele Walker, Avery Moak, Bernice Decker, Ruth Decker. Picture from Charles Decker.

Mildred Vail in a voluminous costume and a playful mood.

Picture from Daisy Decker album.



Clarence Morton
Whipple, Jr. 1 year
old. Calvin Edgar
Whipple, 3 years
old. Relatives of
Frances Whipple
Wrench. Picture
from Town
Historian.



Isabel
Carolyn
Whipple,
age 4 years.
Relative
of Frances
Whipple
Wrench.
Picture
from Town
Historian.





Twins Bernett and
Bernice Decker
and brother
Ellery. Bernett and
Bernice both have
frilly dresses and
long curls. Picture
from Charles
Decker.

Lewis David
Lanham with long
dress. Dated 1922.
Picture from Afton
Historical Society.



Unknown boy? with long dress and lace collar. Picture from Moon/Pearsall family album. Afton Historical Society.



An unknown boy with a frilly dress. From Lyon Family album.

Afton Historical Society.





Students at Afton District No. 4 in Coventry. Arthur Grover in dark suit in middle of back row. *Picture from Charles Decker.*



Children on Afton Fair float. Probably sponsored by the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Afton.

Picture from Charles Decker.



Wokayapi group of Campfire Girls from Afton. Front right: Viola Gregory. *Picture from Daisy Decker album.*



A Sunday School Class from the Afton
Presbyterian Church. Russell Howe, Donald
Rhydderch, Arthur Nelson, Lester Holt, Charles
Decker, Harriet Shepard, Jeanette Grover, Shirley
Webb, Joyce Tiffany, Marjorie Dixon.
Picture from Charles Decker.



Unknown, soberfaced group, probably brothers and sisters, by an Afton photographer.

Unknown boy. He carries a whip and wears a frilly shirt and has long curls. *Picture from Town Historian*.

Un-named girl in beautiful white dress. Picture from Austin Family album. From Town Historian.



Goldie
Goodnough
Pratt, age
12 and
brother, Cleon
Goodnough,
age 4. Picture
from Elaine and
Jerry Brackett.
Afton Historical
Society.



Boy with
velvet shirt
and lace collar.
Smoothed back
hair. From Lyon
Family album.
Afton Historical
Society.

Irene Hall. She has a curly, short hairdo. *Picture from Afton Historical Society.*



Girl with waist-length hair and embroidered dress.

Picture from Lyon Family album. Afton Historical Society.



Grace
Howard
of Afton
at 5 years,
1880.
Picture
from Afton
Historical
Society.





Florence and Aftona Stanbro, daughters of Frank and Effie Place Stanbro. Frank was Principal of Afton High School in the early 20th century. Picture from Daisy Decker album.

Ruth Decker in tiered skirt of shiny material. *Picture* from Daisy Decker album.



A sober Paul
Perkins.
Relative of
Addie Perkins
Haven, wife
of George A.
Haven. Picture
from Perkins
album. From
Afton Town
Historian.



Anna Perkins,
Relative of Addie
Perkins Haven, wife
of George A. Haven.
Picture from Perkins
album. From Afton
Town Historian.